

ECS ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

ECS is the identification and competence card scheme for electrotechnical operatives developed and agreed by industry. The ECS scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, is administered by the  The Electrotechnical JIB
Setting employment standards

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS MAKE ECS CARD APPLICATIONS QUICKER AND CLEARER

Throughout 2023 we reviewed processes for applying for ECS cards through MyECS and the ECS Employer Portals. We made changes and added features to make both systems quicker and clearer to use. Improvements include:

- Improved automatic detection and reading of multiple uploaded pages plus a document viewer to reduce the need for manual entry of qualifications.
- Automatic real-time checking for speedy and secure verification of more than 1,000 qualifications.
- Enhanced help at every step and a video guide ecscard.org.uk/content/How-to-Apply.
- Better integration with external information sources for checking of training and qualification routes.
- Improved website search function to make it easier to find information.



More than 80% of applicants able to find answers to their questions using these services. **Look out for the Help button in the application process when next applying for an ECS card.**

MORE THAN 50,000 ONLINE ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED

Assessments taken using the ECS Remote Invigilation system have passed the milestone number of 50,000.

Initially launched during Covid-19 restrictions in January 2021, the system has been expanded to offer the ECS Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Awareness Assessment and technical assessments across Fire and Security, Network Infrastructure, Electrical Safety and Building Controls.



ECS Remote Invigilation revolutionises assessments, saving businesses invaluable time and money. By seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology, it ensures a secure, convenient and cost-effective experience.

Mike Stark, Director of Data Cabling and Networks, Atalian Servest AMK

ECS STEERING GROUP



2,500 ECS CHECK REGISTRATIONS



ECS Check allows contractors and clients to verify ECS status and produce electronic summaries for auditing and reporting. The ECS Check App enables real-time onsite checking. It is also a Licence to Practise system for public contracts in Northern Ireland.

Organisations registered for the scheme include Amazon, Balfour Beatty, Mace and NIHE.

12 TRADE SHOWS IN 6 CITIES

In 2023, 400 people attended live events to hear updates and guidance on ECS. In 2024 we will be attending:

Elex Show

London 29 February –1 March
Bolton 21–22 March
Exeter 25–26 April 2024
Harrogate 16–17 May
Coventry 12–13 September
Sandown Park 7–8 November

Smart Buildings Show

London 9–10 October

IFSEC/FIREX

2–4 December

CELLULAR NETWORK FIELD ENGINEER CARD LAUNCHED



The Cellular Network Field Engineer card has been launched to complement the development of the apprenticeship of the same title. To be eligible for a Cellular Network Field Engineer card, applicants must have successfully completed the Level 4 Cellular Network Field Engineer apprenticeship standard, and hold a current ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment or exemption.



Vodafone has been working with the CNFE committee to formulate the Cellular Network Field Engineer apprenticeship standard in UK. This launch is not only good for UK and the industry, but also for all young people who are looking for an exciting career in a sector at the heart of a digital and connected future. The CNFE committee, together with ECS, are doing a fantastic job leading the way for telecom apprenticeships.

Fredric Sundin, Head of Network Development UK, Vodafone

NEW ROUTES TO ECS CARDS FOR BUILDING CONTROLS SECTOR

ECS worked with the BCIA to update requirements and routes for Building Controls cards, including an Experienced Worker Assessment for BEMS Engineers. The suite of cards includes:

The suite of cards includes:

- Building Controls Apprentice
- Building Controls Associate
- Building Controls Installer (Electrical)
- Building Controls Technician (Commissioning)
- Building Controls Experienced Worker
- Building Controls Engineer

Find out more here
ecscard.org.uk/card-types



50,000 GOLD CARDS

There are now more than 50,000 Registered Electrician gold card holders in the UK. Registered Electrician status signifies that not only has the person met the requirements for the industry-approved standard at Level 3 as an Installation or Maintenance Electrician (an ECS gold card), but they have also kept up to date with the latest edition of BS7671 IET Wiring Regulations, have agreed to a Code of Professional Conduct and commit to keeping up to date with CPD requirements.

175,000 ECS CARDS

ECS is a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Alliance member with more than 175,000 valid card holders across the built environment sector.

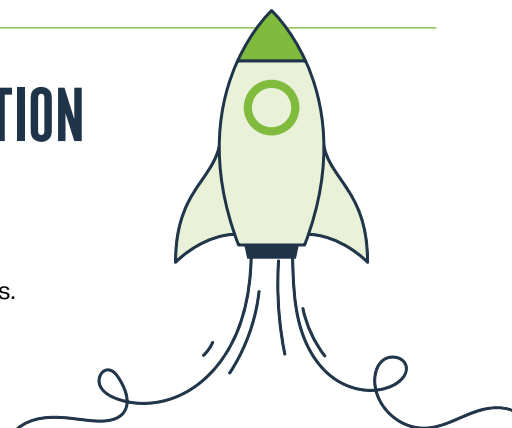
Alliance members align to improve the construction industry's card checking procedures, improve site safety and help tackle card fraud. CSCS Smart Check provides a quick, easy and secure way for employers and clients to ensure everyone has the right card for the job they do on a project. More than 30,000 ECS cards have been checked using the system.

ECS cardholders can also use the CSCS Smart Check app to present their card virtually, with the use of this feature increasing by 24% in 2023.

LAUNCH OF FESS TECHNICAL AUDITOR CERTIFICATION

The FESS Technical Auditor ECS card has been launched to an industry-led standard.

It is aimed at auditors who have met technical competencies – such as FESS or Electrical gold card requirements at Level 3 apprenticeship, vocational qualification or equivalent, and those responsible for assuring standards are adhered to via third-party certification schemes.



EXPERIENCED WORKER ASSESSMENTS

The JIB and ECS work with more than 200 organisations to set standards across Electrical, FESS, Networks, Telecoms, Digital and Building Controls sectors.

We are collaborating to develop Experienced Worker Assessment (EWA) routes to qualifications for those with existing industry experience.

This considers work carried out to a nationally recognised standard and, on completion, candidates have evidenced competency to meet the requirements of an ECS gold card.

- JIB worked with the FESS Industry Group on an EWA route to EAL Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Providing Electronic Fire and Security Systems Security Systems. Dame Judith Hackitt DBE, Chair of the EAL board, presented Diplomas to Shaun Wright, Daren Pool, Gary Flockton and John Watts.
- BPEC launched an EWA route and Sam Manton, Spire Security Ltd, completed the assessment through Banham Academy to achieve his Security Systems Technician gold card.
- TESP updated Electrician EWA routes to latest apprentice standards.

- An EWA for Network Infrastructure Installers is currently at pilot stage.
- EWA routes for Panel Builders and Building Controls Engineers are in development.



ELECTROTECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION QUALIFICATIONS GUIDE

As a member of the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) Management Committee, Andy Reakes, JIB and ECS Director of Growth and Development, worked with industry to update the EAS Qualifications Guide.

In 2021 ECS aligned with EAS to update minimum standards for competence to undertake electrotechnical work. This update to the EAS Qualifications Guide builds on this work and recognises the routes to baseline competency for Installation, Maintenance and Domestic Electricians. ECS is keen to ensure alignment with the updated apprenticeships and EWA routes in these occupations. To ease QS application process, ECS records can now be used as evidence towards these requirements, as well as QS status being recorded on your ECS card and CPD record.

FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS

The JIB is a member Working Group 2 (WG2) for Installers which aims to raise the bar on occupational standards. WG2's objective is to develop a competence framework for those involved in the installation and maintenance of fire safety and other safety critical systems for higher-risk buildings.

Five recommendations have been put forward by WG2:

- Accredited third party certification of the company.
- Level 2 or 3 qualifications for individuals.
- A card scheme such as CSCS Partner Schemes, including ECS.
- CPD refresher training and maintenance of individual skills.
- Core knowledge of fire safety in buildings – training to be standardised and made mandatory.



The JIB and ECS will continue to work on the development of competence frameworks across the electrotechnical sector as part of Super Sectors development through WG2.

750 ELECTRICIANS WITH SOLAR PV QUALIFICATIONS

More than 750 qualified electricians have added their solar PV qualifications to their ECS CPD record and their ECS card. As a partner in The Electrotechnical Skills Partnership (TESP), ECS endorses the Electrician Plus model which promotes the upskilling of qualified electricians in new technologies, such as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels.



INDUSTRY COMPETENCE COMMITTEE

In August 2023, Jay Parmar, Chief Executive of the JIB was appointed as a member of the Industry Competence Committee (ICC), set up by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The committee is part of the government's work with industry, to raise the bar on standards and competence following the disaster at Grenfell. Mr Parmar will play an active role in providing leadership to the built environment industries on competence, help to facilitate improvements in standards and practice as well as supporting the Building Safety Regulator's strategies to deliver culture change.