



PRESS RELEASE
October 2 2006

MCG MOVE AHEAD ON QUALIFIED WORKFORCE PROJECT

Members of the Major Contractors Group (MCG) are moving ahead to employ a fully qualified workforce on their construction sites.

MCG Chairman John Spanswick has warned that from today, Monday 2 October, no-one will be allowed to work on MCG sites without having the appropriate CSCS card or having registered with Skills Direct as a first step towards obtaining one.

John Spanswick said: "There is good evidence that our supply chains are rising to the challenge with both the demand for CSCS cards and registrations with SkillsDirect increasing. However those who have still not taken action need to be aware that MCG members are determined to complete our qualified workforce project. This will already be evident on MCG sites."

The progress made towards achieving a fully qualified workforce forms part of a wide range of initiatives underway in the MCG's health and safety strategy.

The individual components of the policy, from site specific inductions to workforce consultation, and the pioneering of an occupational health strategy, represent a co-ordinated drive aimed at ensuring the well-being of all those who work in the construction industry.

Notes for editors

1. The Major Contractors Group (MCG) represents the UK's largest construction companies. Its members carry out over £20 billion worth of construction work each year.
2. Working together, CSCS Ltd and CITB-ConstructionSkills recently put two measures into place which simplify and speed up the process of obtaining skills cards – this is the new Skills Direct Service, which has been available to MCG companies and their sub-contractors since the 1 February and has been available to the whole industry from 1 August, and a new basic skills card – aimed at 14 key trades and pitched at NVQ Level 1- which has been available since 16 March.
3. MCG members have agreed that:
 - With effect from 2 October 2006, everyone with a construction trade working on MCG sites must either have an appropriate skills card or be taking firm steps to obtain one through registration with Skills Direct; and
 - With effect from 1 January 2007, and subject to Skills Direct being able to cope with the consequent extra demand for CSCS cards, everybody working on an MCG site must have an appropriate skills card.
4. For further information (media) contact Kurt Calder on 0207 227 4508. The MCG website at www.mcg.org.uk also contains some general information about the MCG's work.
5. More information regarding the MCG's health and safety policy from John Bradshaw on 01923 423 566

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