

NPORS - PRESS RELEASE

The National Plant Operators Registration Scheme (NPORS) has resigned from the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) Management Committee.

This decision has paved the way for NPORS to promote its own card throughout the country. NPORS Chief Executive, Mr Stan Chapman says “It makes more sense for us as an independent card scheme to assist industry with their training needs. Unlike CPCS we allow flexibility in the training our providers offer and can more accurately identify the training and testing which has been undertaken. This makes it much easier for site managers to identify the competence of potential employees; also we do not require our providers to give us notice of their courses. This allows operatives to be trained and tested much quicker. Site managers are assured that every operator coming in with an NPORS card will have been trained and tested by a qualified instructor, and not had a card granted to them by grandfather rights”.

In 2002 NPORS joined together with the CITB and Lantra Awards to set up a new card scheme, CPCS. It was the intention that the CPCS would be competence based, that is to say, the operator competence cards would only be supplied when a trainee achieved a relevant NVQ in SPMO (Specialist Plant Machinery Operations). Since the inception of CPCS and in spite of approximately 180,000 operator cards being issued, less than 1000 of these cards have an NVQ attached. There are many operators who hold a ‘blue competence card’ which has only been gained through a direct exchange with the old CTA card scheme. Therefore, there are many CPCS card holders that have never even been tested let alone achieved an NVQ.

Employers and site managers should also be aware that the CPCS or indeed any other card scheme is not mandatory by law, but appropriate, adequate and sufficient training is.

Mr Stan Chapman continues: “We originally joined forces with the CITB to create the new CPCS on the understanding that the industry wanted a competence based card. We are increasingly finding however, that although industry wants a qualified workforce, they need trained personnel on their sites today, and the CPCS is actually working against the wishes of the construction industry”.

Anyone looking for more information on for an NPORS card may contact the Scheme for more details on 01606 49909.

Note:

NPORS was founded in 1992 by its current Chief Executive, Stan Chapman. It is a registration scheme that has registered and supplied over 120,000 operator cards in a variety of sectors, including industrial, agricultural, and construction. NPORS are accredited by the Health & Safety Commission via an Approved Code of Practice for lift trucks (L117), and as an ISO9000 company, has a fully auditable management system in place.