



**There has never been a greater need to increase the skill sets within the £110bn UK construction sector which contributes 7% of GDP. In addition, according to RICS the shortfall in the number of skilled construction workers in the UK is currently at its highest point since 2007 and it is estimated that 200,000 workers will need to be recruited by the end of this year**

For its part, the UK Aluminium in Building sector trade association, the Council for Aluminium in Building (CAB) has partnered with GQA Qualifications a leading awarding body and CSCS partner to develop a new route to a curtain walling installers CSCS card. It is recognised that it is important that all those people who are applying for a CSCS card can show they have undertaken CPD and have up to date knowledge of the industry and different curtain walling systems.

The overriding objectives in the development has been to raise competency levels by developing standardisation of basic knowledge and best practice whilst ensuring a consistency of CSCS card achievement which will ensure that site installers are qualified both in their field of expertise and knowledge of the particular system being installed. The intention is to promote the scheme to attract new talent by presenting the fenestration sector in construction as a desirable career path.

The new route involves a number of steps, whether the installer is a new entrant or an installer renewing a CSCS card, with or without a relevant NVQ. These routes will all include a one day curtain walling essential knowledge workshop. The purely generic training day has been developed by the CAB training committee as part of the formal route to achieving a first or renewed curtain walling installers CSCS card and aims to ensure that installers have the required basic knowledge to undertake an approved systems specific training and ultimately reduce snagging on site and the associated costs involved with this. The topics covered include: handling and storage of materials; principles of weather-tightness; surveying and setting out; tolerances and reading drawings and specifications.

Candidates will attend the training at GQA approved training providers who will deliver the CAB curtain walling workshop and who will steer candidates through the various steps to achieve the new CAB CSCS curtain walling installers card. In order to allow time for those installers needing to undertake further CPD, training or

qualifications to pass through the new route, a one-year temporary card will be available. Within this one-year period the appropriate qualification will need to be achieved as the temporary card will expire after this period has passed and will not be able to be renewed.

To ensure the whole process is kept up to date and continues to meet best practice, the approved trainers will take part in regular formal review meetings with the CAB training committee, GQA and systems house training departments.

To apply for a CSCS curtain wall installers card there are different processes to follow depending on the type of card the installer is applying for and on what qualification the installer has. Further information is provided on the CAB website as to the various routes that can be taken to attain a CSCS curtain wallers card.

A full list of those organisations that deliver either the one day *Curtain Walling Essential Knowledge* or the one day GQA approved *Systems House Curtain Wall Product Awareness* courses will be offered via the CAB websites with links to the course booking systems. In order to register industry interest in keeping informed of the imminent roll out of the CSCS curtain wallers card scheme and how to make bookings onto the scheme that is expected to start in the next few months, please contact CAB via email or by phone.

It is expected that the CAB scheme will be extended to offer further competency skills in other aluminium fenestration related installation and CAB will be listening to the requirements of its members and the wider industry.

Despite the pandemic, it is business as usual at CAB and staff are on hand at the offices to answer any aluminium fenestration related questions. ☐

Information is regularly updated on the CAB website at [www.c-a-b.org.uk](http://www.c-a-b.org.uk). For association membership enquires please contact Jessica Dean at the CAB offices by email [jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk](mailto:jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk) or by phoning on 01453 828851