

ULTRA ACCESS

The different types of **CISRS** Scaffolders Cards (Part B)

And what each type allows one to do, as per the guidance

In Britain, scaffolding qualifications are overseen by the **CISRS** (the **Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme**), which ensures operatives meet competence standards under the **Work at Height Regulations 2005** (WAHR 2005).

These regulations mandate proper planning, supervision, and competent personnel to prevent falls and ensure safety during erection, alteration, and dismantling of scaffolds.

CISRS aligns with **NASC** (**National Access and Scaffolding Confederation**)'s Technical Guidance (TG), notably TG20 for Tube and Fitting scaffolds and TG30 for some basic System Scaffold types, providing a recognised standard for build, stability, ties, anchors, and inspections, among other things.

The scheme includes four key levels:

- **Scaffold Labourer (COTS)**,
- **Trainee Scaffolders / Part 1**,
- **Basic Scaffolders / Part 2**,
- ... and **Advanced Scaffolders**.

All require passing the CITB Health, Safety & Environment Test (or equivalent) before sitting each respective course with each going into various and respective levels of detail.

So... what can each card level allow, as per the guidance, in line with WAHR 2005...?

Those with a **Scaffold Labourer** Card cannot erect, alter, or dismantle scaffolds, ensuring compliance with WAHR 2005 by limiting untrained individuals to low-risk tasks and preventing unauthorised access to heights.

However, once someone obtains their **Trainee Scaffolders** card can assist in erecting, altering, and dismantling basic structures as team members but cannot lead a team or work unsupervised - giving them more responsibility, and the ability to fix, although under Part 2 and/or Advanced Supervision.

Basic Scaffolders are considered fully qualified, with holders being deemed competent enough to lead scaffold gangs in erecting, altering, and dismantling basic TG20-compliant structures (e.g., independent tied scaffolds, protection fans, and so on)... they can interpret basic **TG Compliance Sheets** / which are in themselves very basic design drawings.

Advanced Scaffolders can legally do what each of the other 3 card holders can, but also erect, alter, and dismantle intricate **Designed Scaffolds**, lead large teams on complex projects, interpret detailed drawings, and conduct thorough inspections.

In the opinion of **ULTRA ACCESS**, the card doesn't make the scaffolder, but from a compliance perspective and with regards to a companies or contractors insurances, as well as the legal obligation of "Duty of Care" - its always best to allocate the right operatives for the task at hand.

