

ULTRA ACCESS

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

And a brief summary of how long they are valid for

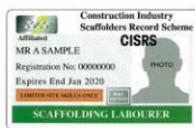
In the UK, all scaffolders are expected to be “competent”, which is very ambiguous wording.

It means essentially - as per the **HSE** (Health and Safety Executive) definition; “Competence can be described as the combination of training, skills, experience and knowledge that a person has and their ability to apply them to perform a task safely. Other factors, such as attitude and physical ability, can also affect someone's competence.”

To show that competence, one would usually have a formal qualification in scaffolding, and the training to be classed as “competent” is created, managed and issued by the **CISRS** for short (pronounced as “scissors”) **Construction Industry Scaffolders Recognition Scheme**.

Part of the **CITB** (Construction Industry Training Board)'s **NVQ** (National Vocational Qualification) program.

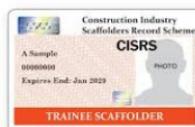
There are **4 different card types** that one can obtain in British scaffolding, over the years as their knowledge, skill and experience increases.



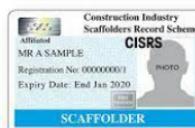
Once upon a time, a **CSCS** (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card would have sufficed as proof of training to work on a Construction project, however with the creation of the **COTS** (CISRS Scaffolding Operative Training Scheme) course, which has since superseded the CSCS for those looking at entering the scaffolding industry.



On successful completion of the COTS course, one would receive a certificate and then they can apply for a **Scaffolding Labourer** card (shown in the pictographic), which is valid for up to 5 years.



After 3 months of holding a **Scaffold Labourer** card, one would be eligible to attend a **Trainee Scaffolder / Part 1** course, with it taking 2 weeks to finish, going over the fundamentals of scaffolding safety and how to build TG compliant scaffold structures - this is valid for 18 months, with an extension of 18 months before it expires.



If one has the skill, they would be able to sit their **Basic Scaffolder / Part 2** course within another 36 months, and on successful completion would become fully qualified.



This “Basic” card is valid for 5 years, also. And finally; for those who wish to take on the extra responsibility - after 12 months of receiving their “Basic” card, and fully complete their scaffolding training can sit the **Advanced Scaffolder** course.

In Part B, we will discuss what each card type allows one to do, as per **NASC's** TG guidance. **Our advice would be - DON'T RUSH, and only try to progress as you gain the right amount of experience.**