

ULTRA ACCESS

SSSTS vs SMSTS vs CISRS "Scaffolding Supervisor"

Whats the key differences, and which one is the most versatile / cost effective

When considering moving from a scaffolder into a more supervisory/managerial role within a construction-based company, there's 3 primary qualifications you can choose from;

- **SSSTS** - short for **Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme**, which is a moderately difficult to achieve qualification, based on a (usually) 2 day course, either online, or on location at a whole number of training centres. **Its about £350 at the high end.**
- **SMSTS** - which is short for **Site Management Safety Training Scheme**, and an upgrade (of sorts) from the SSSTS, and more in-depth carried out over 5 days, or sometimes over 2 condensed weekend periods. Online and on-location options are available, like the "triple S" and its **closer to £500 in cost.**
- **CISRS Scaffolding Supervisor** - The **Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme** Scaffolding Supervisors' course being kind of the "scaffolding version" of the SSS and the SMS, being a mixture of supervision, and with a splash of lower-mid management training. Based over 5 days, and **costing about £1000** respectively.



All 3 courses are officially backed by the **CITB** (the **Construction Industry Training Board**), with **CISRS** still being under of the CITB's regulation, so in essence, it should have an equal standing within the wider-Construction Sector...

... although the Scaffold Supervisor course glosses over some of the SSS and SMS elements, concentrating more on scaffolding operations to fill its time than on general construction site safety.

However, Health and Safety law is Health and Safety law, regardless of the type of management course you choose to take and they are all bound by said law, primarily the **Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974** and are based on its principles.

ULTRA ACCESS would (and has) chosen **SMSTS** as the better of the 3 courses to take, for a number of reasons... with it being possibly more versatile to use, for a whole number of situations, as well as it being half the price of the CISRS version, leaning more toward site management as a generality and with Health and Safety law being heavily featured, discussed and taught on the course, (which might not necessarily be covered by the CISRS equivalent), we feel that its the more cost effective for what you get too.

The SMSTS can also be taken over 5 weeks, with it being conducted on 1 day a week, making it a more attractive course for companies to place key members of staff on without it affecting their operational capacity too much either.

NEBOSH is another qualification to look into, with many organisations deeming it itself the upgrade from SMSTS, but for this publication, we will stick to the other 3.

As always, we promote personal development - starting as early in ones scaffolding career as possible, and considering it equally as important as getting your CISRS Scaffolding qualifications.

Having a proactive and healthy attitude to career and personal development can only be classed as a positive characteristic to have, and we wholeheartedly believe and support that.

ULTRA ACCESS
Scaffold Technical Support

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