



Update 51 - April 2008

ConstructionSkills and the Site Safety Plus Scheme

In 2006 4warned drew your attention to new courses introduced by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). In the 2 years since, greater change has occurred. The first big change is that the CITB is now known as ConstructionSkills after a gradual move from the name that most are familiar with to the current one. More importantly however the Site Safety Plus scheme has been extended still further and it now boasts no less than seven courses.

ConstructionSkills Site Safety Plus has been designed to provide construction and allied industries with a framework for the training and personal development of the industry's workforce by aiming the courses at all levels from entry to the industry up to the management of projects and beyond. In particular the scheme allows for natural progression from entry into the industry up to the management of construction work. This of course assists organisations in demonstrating the competence of both the company and its personnel and helps to promote a positive safety culture.

Health and Safety Awareness

This one day course is aimed at construction operatives who are about to or have recently begun work in the industry and aims to help them understand the hazards that they may face on site. The course summarises health, safety, welfare and environmental issues and identifies the delegate's responsibility for taking care for themselves and those who may be affected by their action, the employer's responsibilities and the reporting of any perceived deficiency in safety on the site. This course is ideal as foundation training for those who are to obtain an industry accreditation card (CSCS and affiliated schemes). It should be emphasised that the course DOES NOT exempt the need to carry out the touch screen test.

Achieving Behavioural Change

The Achieving Behavioural Change course was developed to provide training on the benefits of applying behavioural change to contractors working for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as part of the Jobcentre Plus refurbishment programme and has now been made available to the industry as a whole. This one day course aims to provide delegates with an understanding of how attitude and behaviour in the workplace can affect the likelihood of accidents occurring. The course helps to promote a positive safety culture and encourages communication of health, safety, welfare and environmental issues. For this course to be successful it is essential that it be run in house and include delegates from all levels across the organisation.

The Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS)

The Major Contractors Group (MCG) announced at the end of 2007 that all contractor supervisors on their sites must attend the Supervisors Safety Training Scheme as part of their commitment to health and safety training. The MCG stated that this demonstrates that supervisory health and safety training is an area to which the construction industry must turn its attention. MCG companies are to drive to ensure that all supervisors achieve the qualification by 2010 after which, MCG intend to implement a "zero tolerance" policy for those without this qualification on MCG sites. This has raised the profile of the course however, whether working on an MCG project or not the course benefits the individual and the company and helps to demonstrate a competent workforce.

This 2 day course is aimed at first line managers, foremen, gangers, supervisors, team leaders and those who are to gain supervisory responsibilities and need to understand their legal duties and those of the organisations they represent in order for them to contribute effectively to the instruction, supervision and monitoring of tasks and activities to ensure safety on site.

Site safety for shopfitters and interior contractors

With different safety issues than other areas of construction, ConstructionSkills in conjunction with the National Association of Shopfitters have developed this course which meets the very specific requirements of the shopfitting and interior contracting sector. This 3 day course is for managers, supervisors, foremen or those who are to be made responsible for overseeing operations within the shopfitting and interior contracting environment. All relevant legislation and issues affecting safe working are covered; notably risk assessment implementation of control measures and communication of health safety welfare and environmental issues. Delegates are helped to develop a better understanding of the legal, moral and social responsibilities of their roles to enable them to effectively supervise on site activities.



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The Site Management Safety Training Scheme

The SMSTS has now been in existence for nearly 30 years and has over time been refined to provide construction and project directors, project and site managers, agents, surveyors and others who are responsible for planning, organizing, monitoring, controlling and administering staff and workforce. Whilst the focus has tended to be on the attendance of 'on site management' there is definite benefit in any personnel who can influence the managing of a construction project to complete this five day course. This highly popular course has been designed to accommodate delegates from a range of backgrounds within the industry with case study materials ranging from general construction, civil engineering, house building, demolition, refurbishment and roadworks.

The Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher Course

SMSTS certificate holders need to renew their certificate within five years and the refresher course aims to bring individuals health and safety knowledge up to date, as well as giving a thorough overview of legislation changes and their impact in the workplace. The course includes a wide range of topics which build on the previous five-day course programme as well as introducing new or updated subjects.

The Plant Manager Safety Training Scheme (PMSTS)

Another course focusing on a specialised area, this five day course is aimed at plant managers, instructors and inspectors workshop managers, project managers and agents and those who are to be responsible for planning, organising, controlling and monitoring the workforce in the context of plant and equipment use. All relevant legislation and issues affecting safe working are covered notably; risk assessment implementation of control measures, communication of health safety welfare and environmental issues. Delegates are helped to develop a better understanding of their legal, moral and social responsibilities of their roles to enable them to effectively supervise on site activities.

Industry Recognition

In addition to the organisations already mentioned it is worth noting that The Chartered Institute of Building has adopted the SMSTS course as part of its Safety Module for Delegates sitting the Site Management Education and Training Scheme (SMETS). The Institution of Civil Engineers recognises the scheme in the technical and professional categories of the Professional Review and The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) also recognises the scheme under its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme. IOSH members benefiting from the course may claim credits for attendance

Where do I go from here?

As an individual in the construction industry, seek advice if this is the best course for you and consider your progression in the industry.

As a company, consider carrying out a training needs analysis to establish the best courses suited to the needs of your business and your employees which will enable you to budget for and plan the training.

For levy payers grants are available through ConstructionSkills which include payments based upon submission of a training plan and grants per delegate per day with achievement grants on course completion.

A range of publications from ConstructionSkills accompany the courses including the comprehensive GE700 reference document (on the SMSTS) and provide delegates with a long term source of information on health, safety, welfare and environmental issues.

Where can I get further information?

You can contact 4See Risk Management Limited on **01908 263336** or email training@4seerisk.com. We are able to deliver all the non specialist courses and can carry out a Training Needs Analysis and assist in devising your training plan

ConstructionSkills website - <http://www.citb.co.uk/healthsafety/sitesafetyplus/>

The National Association of Shopfitters - <http://www.shopfitters.org/>

For further details, please contact our head office on **01908 263336** or enquiry@4seerisk.com