

Grading Definitions

INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
1. GRADING DEFINITIONS	79
1.1 INSTALLATION/MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN	79
1.1.1 Grade: Electrician	79
1.1.2 Grade: Approved Electrician	79
1.1.3 Grade: Technician	81
1.2 DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN	82
1.2.1 Grade: Domestic Electrician	82
1.3 TRAINEE ELECTRICIANS (STAGES 1, 2 and 3)	82
1.4 ELECTRICAL IMPROVER	83
1.5 ELECTRICAL LABOURER	83
1.6 CABLING	83
1.6.1 Grade: Cable Hand	83
1.6.2 Grade: Leading Cable Hand	84
1.6.3 Grade: Cable Foreman	84
1.6.4 Grade: Cable Installation Supervisor	84
1.7 NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE	85
1.7.1 Grade: Network Infrastructure Trainee	85
1.7.2 Grade: Network Infrastructure Installation Assistant	85
1.7.3 Grade: Network Infrastructure Installer (Level 3)	86
1.7.4 Grade: Network Infrastructure Installer (Gold Card)	86
1.7.5 Grade: Network Infrastructure Advanced Installer	87
1.8 JOINTING	87
1.8.1 Grade: Jointer (up to and including 30th June 2021)	87
1.8.2 Grade: Jointer (From and including 1st July 2021)	87
1.8.3 Grade: Approved Jointer (up to and including 30th June 2021)	88
1.8.4 Grade: Approved Jointer (From 1st July 2021)	88
2. OTHER GRADES	90
3. PROVISIONAL GRADES (Only available for directly-employed operatives working for JIB member firms)	91
4. RESTRICTED GRADES AND EXPERIENCED WORKERS	92
5. EXPERIENCED WORKER ASSESSMENT ECS CARD	93
6. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS COSTS	93

1. GRADING DEFINITIONS

1.1 INSTALLATION/MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN

1.1.1 Grade: Electrician

Qualifications and Training

Must satisfy one of the following conditions:

- (1) Have successfully completed a registered apprenticeship in the relevant occupational discipline, or undergone some equivalent method of training, and have had practical training in electrical installation work
or
- (2) Have obtained the full requirements, including all knowledge and performance assessments, of the Level 3 NVQ in Electrotechnical Services (Electrical Installation Buildings & Structures), the Level 3 NVQ diploma in Installing Electrotechnical systems and equipment (buildings, structures and the environment) or the Level 3 Electrotechnical Qualification (Installation) Apprenticeship Standard (or approved equivalent), plus the industry assessment of occupational competence (the AM2)
or
- (3) Have completed the JIB Mature Candidate Assessment including the AM2, or the Level 3 Electrotechnical Experienced Worker Qualification including the AM2E.

Duties

Must be able to carry out electrical installation work efficiently and in accordance with the National Working Rules for the Electrical Contracting Industry, the current IET Wiring Regulations for the Requirements of Electrical Installations BS7671, the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, and the Construction Industry Safety Regulations.

1.1.2 Grade: Approved Electrician

Qualifications and Training

Must satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) Must have fully met the requirements for the grade of Electrician as an Installation or Maintenance Electrician.
- (2) Must have had two years' experience working as an Installation or Maintenance Electrician subsequent to the satisfactory completion of training and immediately prior to the application for this grade.
- (3) Must have demonstrated competence in Inspection and Testing and obtained:
 - The NET Advanced Assessment of Competence (AAC) (see Note 1)
or
 - The Level 3 Certificate in the Certification of Electrical Installations (inspection, testing and certification of electrical installations) (see Note 2)
or

- Both the Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations and the Level 3 Award in the Periodic, Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations (see Note 3)
or
- From 1st January 2017 the following qualifications will be accepted for new grading applications as an Approved Electrician (see Note 4)
 - The C&G 2391-52 Level 3 Award in Inspection and Testing OR Both the C&G 2391-50 Level 3 Award in Initial Verification AND the C&G 2391-51 Level 3 Award in Periodic Inspection

Alternatively

- The EAL Level 3 Award in Electrical Installation Inspection, Testing, Certification and Reporting OR Both the EAL Level 3 Award In the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations and the EAL Level 3 Award In the Periodic Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations

Alternatively

- The LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification, Periodic Inspection Testing, Condition Reporting and Certification of Electrical Installations OR Both the LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations AND the LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Periodic Inspection Testing, Condition Reporting and Certification of Electrical Installations.

NB: The requirements of this grade must be fully met but it is not a requirement to have been previously graded for an application to be successful.

Note 1: The AAC is available as a pathway for new grading applications as "Approved".

Note 2: Operatives who already hold the City & Guilds 2391 or the EAL Level 3 Certificate in the Certification of Electrical Installations (inspection, testing and certification of electrical installations) awarded before 1st September 2013 do not need to attain the new qualifications. For the avoidance of doubt, previous Inspection and Testing qualifications remain valid, and individuals who have already achieved Approved Electrician grading within the ECS are not required to undertake the new qualifications.

Note 3: Both the qualifications are needed to cover the full scope of Inspection and Testing. The Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations and the Level 3 Award in the Periodic, Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations contain common theory elements within them. Given the level of training undertaken by ECS cardholders, the relevant theory element only needs to be passed once. These qualifications should be considered to be two parts of the same qualification.

Note 4: Previously recognised Inspection and Testing qualifications remain valid, and individuals who have already achieved Approved Electrician grading within the ECS are not required to undertake the new qualifications.

Note 5: The following qualifications undertaken in Scotland also demonstrate the competence in Inspection and Testing under 1.1.2(3):

- SELECT Inspection and Testing of Electrical Installations
- SQA [SELECT] Customised Award in Inspection and Testing, including Periodic Inspection

Note 6: *For those completing a Domestic Electrician apprenticeship or qualification route, such as an Experienced Worker Assessment, the full Installation Electrician standard necessary for Approved Electrician grading will require successful completion of the Domestic Electrician bridging assessment to obtain the missing skills and complete the practical performance assessment. To achieve Approved Electrician grading, an individual will have needed to complete the bridging assessment to become an Installation or Maintenance Electrician and then subsequently have two years' experience working as an Installation or Maintenance Electrician.*

The employer will ensure that the cost of a first attempt at the AAC, or the training scheme and examinations for Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations is met without cost to the operative when they have satisfied all the other requirements for grading/regrading as an Approved Electrician.

Duties

Approved Electricians must possess particular practical, productive and electrical engineering skills with adequate technical supervisory knowledge so as to be able to work on their own proficiently and carry out electrical installation work without immediate supervision in the most efficient and economical manner; be able to set out jobs from drawings and specifications and requisition the necessary installation materials; be able to accept responsibility for the proper completion of jobs and, if required, supervise other operatives. They must also have a thorough working knowledge of the National Working Rules for the Electrical Contracting Industry, of the current IET Wiring Regulations for Electrical Installations, The Electricity Safety, Quality & Continuity Regulations as amended (so far as they deal with consumers' installations), the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and of any Regulations dealing with consumers' installations which may be issued, relevant statutory and British standards and Codes of Practice, and of the Construction Industry Safety Regulations.

1.1.3 Grade: Technician

Qualifications and Training

Must satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) Must have fully met the requirements for the grade of Approved Electrician.
- (2) Must have had five years' experience working as an Approved Electrician subsequent to the satisfactory completion of training and immediately prior to the application for this grade.
- (3) Must have obtained:
 - A higher technical qualification (the City & Guilds "C" Course Certificate, a Level 4 technical certificate in Building Services Engineering with an electrical installation bias (such as an HNC or approved equivalent)
 - or
 - A recognised BS7671 course in Design and Verification of Electrical Installations.

- (4) There are two categories of Technician for which an Approved Electrician can apply. This is either Site Technician or Installation Technician and the requirements for each are set out below.

(a) **Site Technician**

Must have at least three years in a supervisory capacity in charge of electrical installations of such complexity and dimension as to require wide technical experience and organisational ability.

(b) **Installation Technician**

Must have, with the support of the employer, exceptional technical skill, ability and experience beyond that expected of an Approved Electrician, so that their value to the employer would be as if they were qualified as a Technician under (a) above.

NB: The requirements of this grade must be fully met but it is not a requirement to have been previously graded for an application to be successful.

Duties

Technicians must have knowledge of the most economical and effective layout of electrical installations together with the ability to achieve a high level of productivity in the work which they control. They must also be able to apply a thorough working knowledge of the National Working Rules for the Electrical Contracting Industry, the current IET Wiring Regulations for the Requirements of Electrical Installations BS7671, of the Electricity at Work Regulations, the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations, or any Regulations dealing with Consumers' Installations which may be issued, relevant British Standards and Codes of Practice, and of the Construction Industry Safety Regulations.

1.2 DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN

1.2.1 Grade: Domestic Electrician

Qualifications and Training

Must satisfy one of the following conditions:

- (1) have successfully completed a registered apprenticeship in the relevant occupational discipline (Domestic Electrician), or
- (2) Have obtained the full requirements, including all knowledge and performance assessments, of the Level 3 Domestic Electrician Experienced Worker Assessment including the EWA qualification and AM2ED.

Duties

Must be able to install and maintain electrical services, undertake initial verification and testing of work, all within a domestic setting, efficiently and in accordance with the National Working Rules for the Electrical Contracting Industry, the current IET Wiring Regulations for the Requirements of Electrical Installations BS7671, the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, the Building Regulations 2010, and construction industry safety regulations.

1.3 TRAINEE ELECTRICIANS (STAGES 1, 2 and 3)

For details on the definitions of Trainee Electricians please see Section 8.

1.4 ELECTRICAL IMPROVER

This grade has been introduced for apprentices who do not achieve their NVQ Level 3, and therefore are unable to complete their apprenticeship, to encourage them to remain in the industry. It is not a new grade to be utilised for NVQ Level 2 labour other than for apprentices who are registered on JIB Training Schemes and how have been unable to achieve the NVQ Level 3. It is the intention of the JIB to provide an opportunity for these apprentices to remain within the industry.

Qualifications

Must satisfy the following three conditions:

- (1) Must be registered with the JIB as an apprentice undertaking a JIB Training Scheme
- (2) Must have achieved a NVQ Level 2
- (3) Must have completed the further education courses, though not necessarily have passed all the examinations, associated with the appropriate training scheme. These will normally be the City & Guilds 2360 Parts 1 and 2, the City & Guilds 2351, the City & Guilds 2330 or the EAL Diploma in Electrotechnical Services (500/3526/5).

1.5 ELECTRICAL LABOURER

Grading applications for Electrical Labourer will need to comply with the minimum qualification and health and safety assessment requirements as set out on the ECS website.

Electrical Labourers may be employed to do unskilled work under supervision or assist in the installation of cables in accordance with Section 5.1 – Cable Agreement. Electrical Labourers may be used to execute any unskilled portion of the work and to assist skilled electrical operatives to erect tray work and supports etc. connected with tray work for cables, to fix brackets and to clip cables.

Nothing in these rules should be taken to imply that Electrical Labourers must be employed where there is not sufficient unskilled work to justify their employment, nor to prevent skilled electrical operatives from doing a complete electrical installation job including the unskilled elements in these circumstances. There shall be employed in total no more than one Electrical Labourer to four skilled JIB graded operatives. For cable gangs the ratio may be adjusted to suit the requirements of the particular work being undertaken.

Reference to pair working removed from this grading definition is contained within the Notes of Guidance for the Cable Agreement available on the JIB website.

1.6 CABLING

1.6.1 Grade: Cable Hand

Any Operative filling this position will be working towards the qualification that leads to the grade of Leading Cable Hand.

Cable Hands may be employed to do unskilled work under supervision or assist in the installation of cables in accordance with Section 5.1 – Cable Agreement. Electrical Labourers may be used to execute any unskilled portion of the work and to assist skilled electrical operatives to erect tray work and supports etc. connected with tray work for cables, to fix brackets and to clip cables.

Applications for the grade of Cable Hand will need to have fully met the health and safety assessment requirements for the grade of Cable Hand (which are the same minimum health and safety assessment requirements for initial applications for the grade of Electrical Labourer) or have completed the health and safety unit contained within the approved VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling.

Equivalent Grade: Electrical Labourer

1.6.2 Grade: Leading Cable Hand

Operatives should have, as a minimum, at least four years' experience in a cable gang laying all types of cables, either underground or in racking, as appropriate and embrace the proper handling and cleating of the cable together with acceptable spacings and clipping placing requirements. Alternatively, the Operative may have the relevant experience as above and have obtained the NVQ Level 3 Electrotechnical Services (Installing and Inspecting Structured Cabling Systems) or other VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling as approved by the JIB. Successful achievement of the VQ Level 3 will qualify the operative to apply for an ECS gold card relevant to their JIB grade.

Initial applications for the grade of Leading Cable Hand will need to have fully met the health and safety assessment requirements for the grade of Cable Hand or have completed the health and safety unit contained within the approved VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Electrician

1.6.3 Grade: Cable Foreman

Operatives should have, as a minimum, at least three years as a Leading Cable Hand, and be totally familiar with the IET Regulations regarding bending radii for various types and sizes of cable, embracing power control, instrumentation and special cables laid in ground or racks or cleats.

Alternatively, the Operative may have the relevant experience as above and have obtained the NVQ Level 3 Electrotechnical Services (Installing and Inspecting Structured Cabling Systems) or other VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling as approved by the JIB. Successful achievement of the VQ3 will qualify the operative to apply for an ECS gold card relevant to their JIB grade.

Initial applications for the grade of Cable Foreman will need to have fully met the health and safety assessment requirements for the grade of Leading Cable Hand or have completed the health and safety unit contained within the approved VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Approved Electrician

1.6.4 Grade: Cable Installation Supervisor

Operatives must have, as a minimum;

- (a) At least five years' subsequent experience as a Cable Foreman with responsibility money with a minimum of three years in a supervisory capacity in charge of cable installations of such a complexity and dimension as to require wide experience and organisational ability,
- or

- (b) Exceptional technical skills, ability and experience beyond that of a Cable Foreman and whose value to the employer would be as if they were qualified as a Cable Installation Supervisor under (a) above, and with the support of their present employer, may be granted this grade by the JIB.

Alternatively, the Operative may have obtained the NVQ Level 3 Electrotechnical Services (Installing and Inspecting Structured Cabling Systems) or other VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling as approved by the JIB. Successful achievement of the VQ3 will qualify the operative to apply for an ECS gold card relevant to their JIB grade.

Initial applications for the grade of Cable Installation Supervisor will need to have fully met the health and safety assessment requirements for the grade of Cable Foreman or have completed the health and safety unit contained within the approved VQ Level 3 for power supply and distribution cabling.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Technician

1.7 NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

1.7.1 Grade: Network Infrastructure Trainee

The Network Infrastructure Trainee is for new entrants to the network infrastructure industry who are on an industry recognised training programme leading to a Network Infrastructure Installer (Gold Card).

A trainee is supervised through their training programme and complete under pinning knowledge and performance assessments prior to their final network infrastructure endpoint assessment.

Eligibility and requirements

To be eligible for the Network Infrastructure Trainee card, applicants must:

1. Provide evidence of the trainee training programme being undertaken and
2. Employer support the trainee programme plus

1.7.2 Grade: Network Infrastructure Installation Assistant

The Network Infrastructure Installation Assistant grade is for people working in the Network Infrastructure industry in a supportive role to assist other qualified staff with the installation of cables and other work under supervision.

Eligibility and requirements

To be eligible for the Network Infrastructure Installation Assistant grade, applicants must meet the criteria in either Route 1 or Route 2:

Route 1

Award in Communication Cabling at Level 2 (such as the City & Guilds Level 2 3666/3667/3668), or

Route 2

Have successfully completed the ECS Network Infrastructure Awareness Assessment

1.7.3 Grade: Network Infrastructure Installer (Level 3)

The Network Infrastructure Installer (Level 3) grade is for people who are qualified to the industry recognised level 3 qualification, and are installing and maintaining structured cabling systems for datacomms systems.

There are two Network Infrastructure Installer cards to recognise copper and fibre network infrastructure qualifications.

Work undertaken by people holding the Network Infrastructure Installer – Copper card typically includes the installation of structured cabling such as UTP, STP, FTP, Coaxial and general common copper data cables.

Holders of the Network Infrastructure Installer – Fibre card will typically undertake work on single-mode and multi-mode fibre cables.

A Network Infrastructure Installer will also carry out work on all necessary containment and associated connection units; installation of earthing and bonding cables, the fitting out of enclosures with structured cable termination equipment (connection units, hubs, switches, routers, patch panels etc).

Eligibility and requirements

To be eligible for an ECS Network Infrastructure Installer Level 3 card, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Meet ONE of the following criteria:
 - Level 3 industry recognised qualification in copper such as the BTEC Level 3 Advanced Award in Data Communications Cable Installation or the BTEC Level 3 in Certified Network Cable Installer (Copper)
 - Level 3 industry recognised qualification in Fibre such as the BTEC Level 3 Advanced Award in Data Communications Cable Installation or the BTEC Level 3 in Certified Network Cable Installer (Fibre)
 - City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Communications Cabling (3668-03)
 - EAL Level 3 Award in Telecoms, Fibre and Copper
 - Open Awards Level 3 Award in Copper Datacoms Cable Installation and Testing
 - Open Awards Level 3 Award in Fibre Optics Installation and Testing
 - Completion of the Experienced Worker Assessment Copper or Fibre
- (b) Employer statement confirming at least 12 months installation experience

1.7.4 Grade: Network Infrastructure Installer (Gold Card)

The ECS Network Infrastructure Installer grade is for data network installers that are qualified to the recognised industry Level 3 Network Infrastructure qualification and are installing, commissioning, and maintaining all aspects of copper and fibre structured cabling for network infrastructure systems.

Eligibility and requirements

To be eligible for the ECS Network Infrastructure Installer grade, applicants must:

- (a) Have successfully completed the industry level 3 Apprenticeship Standard, the Network Cable Installer Apprenticeship, or have previously met the requirements of the ECS

Advanced Datacomms Specialist full gold card (see requirements on the ECS website Card Types page), or the Copper and Fibre Network Infrastructure Experienced Worker Assessment.

- (b) Hold an employer statement or project reference confirming at least 12 months installation experience.

1.7.5 Grade: Network Infrastructure Advanced Installer

The ECS Network Infrastructure Advanced Installer grade is for data network installers that are qualified to the recognised industry Level 3 Network Infrastructure qualification and are installing, commissioning and maintaining all aspects of copper and fibre structured cabling for datacomms systems.

In addition, the Network Infrastructure Advanced Installer will have a working knowledge of services including IPCCTV, Access Control, Wireless, A/V and building management systems commonly run over network cabling.

The Network Infrastructure Advanced Installer card is a career progression from the Network Infrastructure Installer.

Eligibility and requirements

To be eligible for the Network Infrastructure Advanced Installer card, applicants must:

- (a) Have held or fully met the requirements for Network Infrastructure Installer Gold Card for at least 3 years.
- (b) Hold an additional Network Infrastructure Specialist CPD qualification in at least one specialist network infrastructure area that may include: AV, IP Security, Wireless and VOIP.

Note: Grades are only awarded as part of the ECS application processes which will as a minimum also require completion of the ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness Assessment (or exemption where granted). For full details, please refer to the relevant Card Types page on the ECS website.

1.8 JOINTING

1.8.1 Grade: Jinter (up to and including 30th June 2021)

The Jinter must have had experience in jointing all types of cable up to 11kv including those which are up to and including the maximum voltages specified within the IET Regulations. In addition, the Jinter should be familiar with the requirements of the IET Regulations.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Electrician

1.8.2 Grade: Jinter (From and including 1st July 2021)

From 1st July 2021 onwards, initial applications for the JIB grade of Jinter must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) Must have completed a registered Apprenticeship or undergone some equivalent method of training and/or industry accreditation and experience, and have had practical training in LV (and where relevant MV and HV – see duties below) electrical installation work; and
- b) Must have passed the NET Assessment of Occupational Competence in LV Cable Jointing

Duties

Any operative filling this position will be competent in the jointing all types of cable up to 1000 volts and carry out the work safely, efficiently and in accordance with the National Working Rules for the Electrical Contracting Industry, the current IET Wiring Regulations for the Requirements of Electrical Installations BS7671, relevant British Standards and Codes of Practice, HSE Guidance Notes, and all relevant Safety and other Regulations.

Operatives working on cables carrying voltages above 1000 volts will need to demonstrate competency in the form of training and a recognised industry assessment for the relevant voltage and cable.

Note: Manufacturers' product familiarisation course attendance certificates are not suitable proof of competency for MV/HV jointing. Recognised certification gained by undertaking the relevant Distribution Network Operator (DNO) trade test or independent third party recognised equivalent are the Industry's methods of demonstrating the required MV/HV jointing competencies.

In respect of operatives who have already achieved the JIB grade of Jointer prior to 1st July 2021, and who have not achieved the criteria set out above, will have their grade maintained. However, employers are encouraged to enrol such operatives onto the NET Assessment of Occupational Competence in LV Cable Jointing.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Electrician

Definition of Extra Low Voltage, Low Voltage, Medium Voltage and High Voltage:

Extra Low Voltage (ELV)	Not exceeding 50V AC or 120V DC between conductors or from conductors to earth
Low Voltage (LV)	Up to 1,000V AC or 1,500V DC between conductors and up to 600V AC or 900V DC between conductors and earth
Medium Voltage (MV)	Above 1,000V but below 33,000V
High Voltage (HV)	Above 33,000V

1.8.3 Grade: Approved Jointer (up to and including 30th June 2021)

The Approved Jointer must have had experience in jointing all types of cable over 11kv and should be capable of jointing all types of cable up to and including 13.8kv. Where there is a requirement to work on voltages above 13.8kv, the Approved Jointer must have had demonstrable technical and practical training for this type of work.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Approved Electrician

1.8.4 Grade: Approved Jointer (From 1st July 2021)

Qualifications and Training

From 1st July 2021 onwards, initial applications for the JIB grade of Approved Jointer must satisfy the following conditions:

- (a) Must have fully met the requirements for the grade of Jointer;
- (b) Must have had at least two years' experience working as a Jointer subsequent to the satisfactory completion of training and immediately prior to the application for this grade; and
- (c) Must have the endorsement of their employer.

Duties

As well as having fulfilled the requirements of the grade of Jointer as defined in 1.5.1 above, Approved Jointers must possess particular practical, productive and electrical engineering skills with adequate supervisory knowledge so as to be able to work on their own proficiently and carry out relevant electrical installation work without immediate supervision in the most efficient and economical manner; be able to set out jobs from drawings and specifications and requisition the necessary installation materials; be able to accept responsibility for the proper completion of jobs and, if required, supervise other operatives. They must also have a thorough working knowledge of the National Working Rules for the Electrical Contracting Industry, the current IET Wiring Regulations for the Requirements of Electrical Installations BS7671, relevant British Standards and Codes of Practice, HSE Guidance Notes, and all relevant Safety and other Regulations.

In respect of Operatives who have already achieved the JIB grade of Approved Jointer prior to 1st July 2021 and who have not achieved the criteria set out above, their grade will be maintained. However, employers are encouraged to enrol such operatives onto the NET Assessment of Occupational Competence in LV Cable Jointing.

Equivalent Installation Grade: Approved Electrician

2. OTHER GRADES

The following grades are also awarded by the JIB from time-to-time to accommodate members with work in areas allied to the Industry. Please note that JIB conditions need not necessarily apply to these grades.

Electrical Fitter

Electrical Winder

Electrician (Marine)

Instrument Pipefitter

Panel Builder

Radio/Television Operative

Refrigeration Operative

Service Fitter

Telecommunication Operative

Wireman

Approved Electrical Fitter

Approved Electrical Winder

Approved Electrician (Instrumentation Artificer)

Approved Electrician (Marine)

Approved Instrument Pipefitter

Approved Instrument Pipefitter (Instrumentation Artificer)

Approved Panel Builder

Approved Radio/Television Operative

Approved Refrigeration Operative

Approved Service Fitter

Approved Telecommunication Operative

Approved Wireman

Electrical Machinery Technician

Panel Builder Technician

Radio/Television Technician

Refrigeration Technician

Senior Instrument Mechanic

Technician (Marine)

Technician Winder

Telecommunication Technician

Wireman Technician.

3. PROVISIONAL GRADES (Only available for directly-employed operatives working for JIB member firms)

A "Provisional" grading will last for a period of 18 months during which time it is the operative's responsibility to achieve the relevant NVQ Level 3 with the support and co-operation of their employer.

It is anticipated that the normal NVQ process will consist of an initial session with an NVQ assessor, when the operative and assessor will decide how the operative is to put together a portfolio for assessment and what evidence can be gathered. At this point the operative would be registered as an NVQ candidate. The JIB will supply information on the location of suitable NVQ Assessment Centres.

The operative will then require an estimated 15 to 20 hours of work to gather the evidence. This will then be assessed by the NVQ assessor and either passed or the assessor will require a further session(s) with the operative to discuss the shortcomings and what further evidence is required. The fully completed portfolio would then be resubmitted to the NVQ assessor.

There are four elements of direct and indirect cost involved in this process – the time the operative has to spend compiling the portfolio, the time and travelling expenses incurred in the session(s) required with the NVQ assessor and the NVQ registration, assessment and certification fees.

These four elements are to be apportioned as follows:

the employer will provide paid time off and actual travel expenses for the initial session with the assessor and up to two further assessment sessions. Any further sessions would be the responsibility of the operative.

the operative will undertake the work in compiling the portfolio in their own time.

the JIB will partially fund NVQ registration, assessment and certification fees through the JIB Skills Development Fund. Application forms for this financial assistance will be provided by the JIB and will be issued with all notifications of "Provisional" gradings.

This apportionment of the direct and indirect costs would mean that the employer would make an initial contribution which should take place soon after the provisional grading, and would not be expected to make a further contribution until the operative had completed the initial portfolio in their own time.

If, at the end of the 18 month period, the operative has not obtained the NVQ, then the "Provisional" grading will be reconsidered by the JIB.

4. RESTRICTED GRADES AND EXPERIENCED WORKERS

The Restricted Grade was withdrawn and no longer available from 1st September 2015.

Operatives who had already been issued a "Conditional" ECS card prior to 1st September 2015 under the JIB restricted grading rules, continued to work for the same employer and ensured their card had not expired by more than 12 months, were able to have this grade maintained.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Construction Leadership Council and the 2020 One Industry Logo, all ECS cards issued must demonstrate the achievement of a nationally recognised construction related qualification.

This means that all Conditional and Restricted grade cards will expire at the latest on 31st December 2024 and cannot be extended beyond this time. ECS will be notifying all individuals affected as cards come to renewal in order to assign people the correct card in line with the above requirements and provide potential routes for qualification, assessment or for many, where no action is required.

Employers are encouraged to enrol such operatives for the TESP Electrotechnical Experienced Worker Assessment or other industry recognised training and assessment programme to fully meet the requirements of the ECS card held.

5. EXPERIENCED WORKER ASSESSMENT ECS CARD

The Experienced Worker ECS card is for electrical operatives that hold a recognised technical certificate and, for whatever reason, have not completed the required competency assessment to comply with the scheme rules for an ECS gold card.

Since 1st September 2015, operatives applying to the JIB for an ECS card with a technical certificate (as defined below) will be issued with a Restricted ECS "Experienced Worker" white related discipline card.

The conditions introduced to govern the issue of this Restricted ECS card are:

- (i) It will only be issued to applicants who have a JIB recognised technical certificate detailed on the ECS card website.
- (ii) It will only be valid for 18 months.
- (iii) It will only be issued once and cannot be renewed.
- (iv) Applicants must have successfully passed the ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment.

Where individuals holding an Experienced Worker ECS card work for a JIB member company, they will be entitled to the Trainee Electrician (Stage 3) rate of pay. Where individuals work for a non-member company, the JIB rate of pay shall be regarded as best practice.

Once this card has expired the operative will have had to meet the requirements for an Installation Electrician gold card or be regraded as an Electrical Labourer or other appropriate grade.

Applications for the Experienced Worker ECS card can be made by any operative who can demonstrate that they have fully met the requirements above or have enrolled to take the assessment.

Applicants must also have successfully passed the ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment.

The Experienced Worker ECS card is also available to applicants through training providers who deliver the Assessment and it is recommended you speak to your Training Provider about applying for this ECS card for you.

6. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS COSTS

Should an employer require their employees to undertake training then the costs involved will be met by the employer.

Possible funding avenues will be ascertained and utilised where employees are not required by their employers to undertake training.

