

PRESS RELEASE

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CIC Publish Updated Occupational Standards online

CIC has completed the 2005-6 updating of the higher level Occupational Standards for the Built Environment and has published them on the web in order to provide the optimum access for potential users. They can be found at www.cicsc.org.uk

CIC manages the Framework of Occupational Standards covering the Professional Managerial and Technical occupations in the built environment, on behalf of Constructionskills and other related Sector Skills Councils. The Framework has been developed over the past 16 years and covers all of its main disciplines (including planning, transportation, design, building and civil engineering, building services engineering, property etc.).

The latest review has incorporated feedback and input from sector practitioners and experts on changing practice that impacts on individual competence. Changes include a wide variety of detailed updates that reflect different sector occupational roles and also best practice in relation to issues such as sustainability, energy use and lean construction.

The Occupational Standards represent a benchmark of industry-specified best practice of competent performance and underpinning knowledge and understanding. They are designed to improve the performance of Industry, by enhancing the performance of people in the workplace and by helping to inform training and vocational education about contemporary industry needs. They provide a powerful multi-purpose tool for industry employers, individuals, professional institutions, learning and training providers, as well as being a potential strategic planning tool.

There is a long term strategy to introduce Occupational Standards into the life of the industry so that value is added by enabling the industry to use the Occupational Standards as a 'common currency'. This will provide a mechanism for forging progression links between academic, vocational and professional qualification systems, as well as providing individuals, employers and the industry at large with tools for developing and measuring the performance of people and enabling the industry to use the Occupational Standards as a 'common currency'.

Users accessing the Occupational Standards on the web will have free access to:

- view the entire Occupational Standards map at any level
- operate search facilities to find and group particular Occupational Standards in which they have an interest;

- print off copies of all screen-viewed information.

For further information on the Occupational Standards, please contact David Cracknell, CIC Director of Lifelong Learning, on dcracknell@cic.org.uk

Ends

Notes to the Editor

1. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade association in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professional in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.
2. The Construction Industry Council is a committed partner in ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Construction. ConstructionSkills is a partnership between the CIC, CITB Northern Ireland and CITB-ConstructionSkills.
3. The work of managing the Occupational Standards is supported by funding from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and Scottish Qualifications Authority and with the direct input of employers and practitioners from across the sector.
4. Occupational Standards measure the competence of individuals employed in industry, and are specified by industry practitioners. They provide for measurement/assessment of individuals by provision of evidence of competent workplace performance and also of necessary underpinning knowledge and understanding. Occupational Standards and NVQs/SVQs cover the full scope of competence and encompass technical and professional job functions, as well as the equally important managerial and personnel/people aspects.
5. The Construction Industry Council's Occupational Standards Panel (since 1999 superseding the Construction Industry Standing Conference) is responsible for leading the development of higher level technical, managerial and professional Occupational Standards and National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications across the Built Environment.
6. The original CISC Occupational Standards were developed from 1990 and first published in 1994. They were the result of long and detailed development by hundreds of employers and practitioners from across the higher levels of the built environment sector. The Occupational Standards were the subject of a further major review and were re-published in 1998 and then on a regular basis since 2003.
7. The Construction Industry Council's Occupational Standards Panel (since 1999 superseding the Construction Industry Standing Conference) is responsible for leading the development of higher level technical, managerial and professional Occupational Standards and National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications across the Built Environment. CIC has a Memorandum of

Agreement with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), that provides for CIC to give expert support to CITB and the other National Training Organisations/Sector Skills Councils that operate in the built environment.

Contact the CIC press office on 020 7399 7400 or email press@cic.org.uk