

PRESS RELEASE

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CIC announce re-launch of Standards Training and Education for Progression Manual

CIC are pleased to announce the re-launch of STEP (Standards, Training and Education for Progression) the fully interactive information and guidance tool for the industry's higher level Occupational Standards and National Vocational Qualifications/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (NVQ/SVQ's) and potential links and progression between different education, training and qualification routes. It provides information for those new to Occupational Standards, as well as dedicated guidance for individuals, employers in the Built Environment sector, education and training providers and professional bodies.

STEP brings together guidance developed through 12 years of Occupational Standards related projects and research led by CIC and the former CISC. The latest version has been updated by CIC with input from representatives of sector skills council partners as well as academic and professional experts. The Progression Pathways Project was funded by the Sector Skills Development Agency, led by CIC as a partner in ConstructionSkills

The latest version contains a myriad of information and guidance on a wide variety of aspects of standards and qualifications and their application to organisations and individuals across the industry. New and updated sections include information on the emerging qualification frameworks and processes being developed at European, national and sector level, including the work of the Sector Skills Councils. Other new material includes information on professional body involvement including CPD, new Occupational Standards user applications for clients, employers, education providers and individuals and information on the costing of NVQ/SVQs.

STEP has been developed to provide easy direct access to the information, supplemented by links to further information on other websites. STEP had been designed to be explored in a non linear way so that you can choose which information you want to access as you need it, and links are provided to relevant external websites. Therefore, whilst it is possible to download STEP to save onto your hard-drive, or to print it, it is advisable to view STEP whilst online to enable the interactive links to be used.

STEP is accessible from the CIC Occupational Standards Panel website at www.cicsc.org.uk

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

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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 form 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.

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