

Subject: Update on Test Centres and Cards following Newsnight Programme

What has happened?

On 21 October, BBC Newsnight ran an undercover expose showing individuals and companies arranging fraudulent qualifications for individuals working within the construction industry.

At three test centres accredited by CITB, individuals were shown either assisting candidates during assessment or falsifying records to obtain the following:

- The CITB Health, Safety and Environment test
- Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment
- The Site Safety Plus Training Scheme (SSP)

These achievements are used to gain cards such as CSCS or CPCS, or are required by contractors to work onsite.

All of the test centres identified in the programme were already under investigation by CITB and were suspended from delivering tests for CITB between 18 August and 21 October 2015. This was prior to receipt of any information from the BBC.

HS&E Tests can be undertaken either at internet test centres (the type featured on the programme) or Pearson Vue centres. Currently, 80% of all tests for CITB accreditation take place at Pearson centres.

SSP training is only provided by centres accredited by CITB.

The Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment is offered by CITB and 20 other Awarding Organisations.

Which Test Centres have been suspended?

The following centres were suspended ahead of the BBC Programme, based on our ongoing investigations:

- ITC 66439 WEP HSE Ltd, Brentford
- ITC 70999 Training Xpres Ltd., Barnet
- ITC 74661 Future Training 4 Jobs Ltd., Ilford

We have suspended two additional centres, which we believe are linked to the centres above:

- ITC 67432 Tec Training, Docklands
- ITB 64249 Chucky's Spirit, Ilford

What if my workers tested at those sites?

We are currently analysing individual test sessions and individuals who have qualifications via these centres. The intelligence suggests that only a minority of tests were conducted fraudulently but we will be reviewing all tests comprehensively.

Where tests are suspected to have been taken fraudulently, we will contact the individuals and ask them to re-take their test at a Pearson Vue test centre within one month. They will be given a voucher to re-take the test free of charge. Those who fail to do so, or who fail the test, will have their cards revoked.

Can I still book tests?

Yes. You can continue booking tests as usual, because CITB systems prevent booking with any centres currently under suspension or review.

Next Steps

In light of the programme, CITB has decided to:

- Accelerate the planned full review of all accredited centres. CITB will not be accrediting any new centres during this time.
- Make it easier to suspend centres from delivering tests for CITB, by lowering the burden of proof required to take this step.
- Accelerate installation of CCTV in testing centres, which will be a requirement for all existing testing centres in 2016 (and was brought in for all new centres in June 2015).

If you have any questions, please contact:

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