

Covid-19

7TH April 2020

Impact on BFBi CSIM Card Scheme

The growing concerns surrounding Coronavirus (COVID-19) are impacting on BFBi's ability to issue CSIM cards to first-time applicants or those wishing to renew their card prior to expiry.

What does this mean for BFBi CSIM Card Scheme?

The full impact of COVID-19 on BFBi/CSCS CSIM card applications is yet unknown.

However, it is now clear that applicants will not be able to physically attend any refresher/test days until the spread of the virus is under control.

Those new to the industry may be unable to apply for cards as they cannot sit the test or undertake training/qualifications relevant for the card they require. Also, the number of expired cards circulating in the industry will increase as existing card holders cannot renew their cards during lock down.

This could lead to genuine installation technicians being turned away from site as they do not hold a CSIM/CSCS card or their existing card has expired.

What steps are BFBi taking?

In recognition that COVID-19 could prevent some installation technicians from meeting BFBi's card application requirements, we are asking industry to support the following temporary measures:

1. Requesting employers and those responsible for site access and card checking procedures to use their discretion towards workers whose cards have expired since mid-March onward.

This is at the employer's discretion until the situation has stabilised.

2. BFBi has extended the grace period for card renewals from 6 months after the card expires to 12 months. This means that the card can be renewed, up to one year from the card's expiry date.

This will assist those applicants struggling to find availability to sit the test and renew their card.

For those needing to take their exams, BFBi has initiated online examination procedures. Details are available by contacting cellarservices@bfbi.org.uk

We are in unprecedented times. Licensees should expect installation technicians to hold a valid CSIM card as proof of their training and qualifications. However, until COVID-19 is brought under control we are asking the industry to support these temporary measures.

Keep informed

BFBi will continue to monitor the situation and, where necessary, introduce further proactive measures to limit the impact on CSIM Card applicants and the wider industry.

We appreciate your support during this time and ask that you to continue to visit this webpage for the latest updates from BFBi.

Any enquiries related to this matter should be emailed to cellarservices@bfbi.org.uk.