



Construction
Skills Certification
Scheme



CANARY WHARF
GROUP



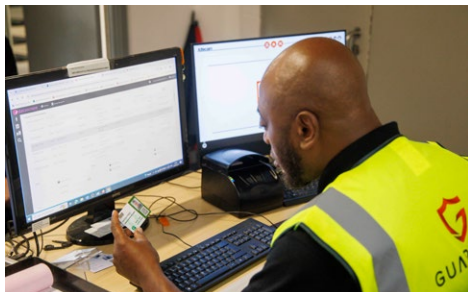
How Canary Wharf Group transformed their site access with CSCS Smart Check



Wood Wharf is a 23-acre mixed-use development, designed to enhance the area with housing, green open spaces, offices and an eclectic retail and community offering.

With upwards of 1,400 personnel on site at any time, it is setting the standard when it comes to ensuring workers have the correct training, qualifications and CSCS-logged card for their role.

Cards carrying the logo provide proof that over 2.1 million workers in trades across construction and the Built Environment have the appropriate training and qualifications for the job they do.



Those 2.1 million cards are issued by the CSCS Alliance - the 38 card schemes that meet Construction Leadership Council recommendations and are permitted to carry the logo.

Regardless of the scheme issuing the cards, holding the right card for the right job is a pre-requisite for Wood Wharf's health and safety team, led by Monima Harrison, Director of Health, Safety and Wellbeing for Canary Wharf Group.

"If you hold a Labourer card, then that's the only job that you will be allowed to do on site," he explains.

Trevor Simpson, Health and Safety Manager and Unite the Union representative, carries out the site inductions at Wood Wharf and adds:



"We're very stringent because we want to do the job once and do it right, so we don't have to keep coming back and repairing work. By checking the card thoroughly we know the workers have achieved the appropriate qualifications and health and safety requirements for their occupation."

"You've got to be able to have the right card for the right job"

Monima Harrison, Director of Health, Safety and Wellbeing for Canary Wharf Group



CSCS
Alliance

The CSCS Alliance comprises 38 card schemes and covers trades and occupations across construction and the Built Environment, providing assurance that over 2.1 million individuals have the appropriate training and qualifications for the job they do on site.



Wood Wharf

Wood Wharf will provide over 3,600 new homes as well as two million square feet of office space, 350,000 square feet of retail space and more than nine acres of public spaces, squares and parks, plus a GP's surgery and a primary school.

Before starting work on site, all Wood Wharf workers undergo a thorough induction, which includes having their CSCS-logoed cards read digitally using CSCS Smart Check. They must also have the appropriate card for their job.

Harrison explains: "Having a skilled workforce is really important because if you've got a workforce that is skilled, ultimately, we will reduce the risk of accidents."

Card Checking Process

CSCS Smart Check is available as an API for existing site systems, a free mobile app and via CSCSSmartCheck.co.uk, allowing for quick and easy verification of cards from any CSCS Alliance scheme.

The platform confirms a card is genuine and in-date, while also verifying a holder's qualifications and training. The platform is used across construction and has made

"a massive difference" to Wood Wharf, according to Simpson.

After contractors at Wood Wharf input their workers' information, including CSCS card details and their specific trade, the individual completes an online induction.

Once confirmation of the online induction has been received, the individual is able to come to site, undertake their in-person health and safety briefing and have their card checked using CSCS Smart Check.

"We use CSCS Smart Check because we want to make sure the cards are genuine and that [individuals] hold the right card, with the correct training and qualifications, for the trade they've come in to do," Simpson explains.

"To have the right card for the job is crucial because we know that they're understanding the job role because they've been trained and qualified. We won't accept people coming through, for instance, on a Labourer card to do a trade."

The 'Right Card, Right Job' ethos is a longstanding message from CSCS and has been brought into focus recently with the implementation of the Building Safety Act.

The Act places a legal duty on anyone undertaking a construction role to ensure they are competent for their role. This means having the appropriate skills, knowledge, experience, and behaviours.

"They may tell us that they've got 15, 20 years, 30 years of experience in doing that job but we don't know that. We're not there to look at the certificates, we're not there to look at the in-house training," Simpson adds. "The CSCS Alliance card schemes and CSCS Smart Check do that job for us quickly and easily."

Workers' qualifications and training records are stored in the card and a quick scan using CSCS Smart Check validates those details - saving Wood Wharf huge amounts of time confirming individual training records.

"It's also about protecting the trades," Simpson adds. "They've put in the hard yards to learn their trade and achieve their NVQs and apprenticeships. If you allow workers to come in on a Labourer card to do that job, all you're doing is devaluing that trade."

The Labourer card highlights to employers the card holder is not qualified to carry out a trade and they have not completed recognised training.

CSCS
Smart Check

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Trevor Simpson, Health and Safety Manager and Unite the Union representative



The CSCS Smart Check API can be built into existing site access systems or card checking equipment, while it can also be used via CSCSSmartCheck.co.uk or downloaded as an app through Google Play or the App Store.



Outcomes and Benefits

Checking cards digitally not only benefits industry and the wider workforce by ensuring individuals on site are qualified, it has had myriad of benefits to Wood Wharf specifically.

Having relied on visual card inspections in recent years - insufficient to identify fraudulent cards - Simpson and his team now have a quick and simple way to carry out their CSCS card checks digitally.

“CSCS Smart Check allows us to carry out rigorous card checks that ensures we have got the right people on site. We know once they’ve gone past that induction process, we’ve got trained people doing the work on site,” he explains.

“This in turn makes a safer site and I think the proof is in the pudding. We’ve got 1,400 to 1,500 people on this project daily and in the last 18 months, we’ve met the challenge of a million work hours without a report or injury three times.”

Future improvements and advice

Simpson acknowledges “kickback” initially coming from contractors and workers who had historically been able to access other



sites using Labourer cards. With contractors and individuals now required to prove competency as part of the Building Safety Act, CSCS-logged cards and CSCS Smart Check can play a crucial role for industry.

Where a construction worker holds the right card for their occupation, it provides assurance that they have achieved the recognised qualification, and any additional specified training required for that occupation, thereby demonstrating the skills and knowledge elements of competence, both of which can be verified using CSCS Smart Check.

As the construction industry continues to strive for a fully qualified workforce,

Simpson’s message to other sites is simple: “Use CSCS Smart Check. Make sure you are checking cards rigorously.

“We’re very happy that we adopted our checking procedures before the Building Safety Act came into force. We are able to demonstrate that Wood Wharf’s entire workforce is trained, qualified and has achieved the appropriate level of health and safety awareness before they start work on site.

“I don’t believe there’s anything better than using CSCS Smart Check to be able to carry this out. I think this is the gold standard.”

Wood Wharf and CSCS Smart Check – in summary

5.5 million square foot mixed-use development with upwards of 1,400 personnel on site at any one time.



CSCS-logged cards are checked digitally during inductions using CSCS Smart Check.



Rigorous checks using CSCS Smart Check ensure individuals are trained and qualified for the job they do on site.



In the last 18 months, a million work hours without a report or injury reached three times.



CSCS Smart Check and ‘Right Card, Right Job’ fully embedded into Wood Wharf’s operations, setting the standard for the construction industry.



Watch the full Wood Wharf case study video