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## on the cover:

This issue features crawler mounted cranes and access equipment, we will award a prize of a bottle of champagne for the first three readers who can identify the piece of equipment running on these tracks. Employees of the manufacturer concerned are excluded. Email [Info@vertikal.net](mailto:Info@vertikal.net) or fax one of our offices.



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over 5000 access professionals attended APEX last month

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# Your powered access expertise



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# cranes & access

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# C&a comment

## Worse than bureaucracy

Martin Ainscough opened the CPA crane interest group meeting last month by highlighting the increasing burden of bureaucracy in the crane hire industry.

Bureaucracy is an overused word that's often applied to any government interference. In reality the problems so labelled are often not caused by the government at all.

Operator training for construction equipment is a good example, we have a situation where a group calling itself the Major Contractors Group (MCG), insists that everyone working on its members' sites must, in theory, carry a proof of training card from a programme affiliated to the CSCS/CPCS registration scheme. The problem is that this body has its own vested interests, which appear to hinge around generating as much cash as possible rather than simply aiming to get more people properly trained.

The fact that the MCG has insisted on a single record scheme, has made the CSCS a virtual monopoly and the pace of affiliating other training programmes is pitifully slow. For example IPAF one of the most practical and respected training programmes in operation, with well over 100,000 cardholders, is still not "affiliated" to CSCS, why not? It is registered as "not affiliated" which means that it is recognised by the MCG, at least for the moment. Allmi is not yet even "Not affiliated"!

The system has become so cumbersome that the percentage of card carrying staff on MCG sites has stalled, way off of the targeted levels, and in some quarters there is open rebellion against the scheme.

The idea of certifying training bodies to a common standard makes very good sense but surely the idea should be to certify training bodies and their programmes, along the lines of an ISO approval, giving the right to then add the CSCS or MCG logo to its cards? The CSCS and CITB priority seems to be to take as much of the training pie as possible for their own training courses. In the meantime progress towards a fully trained workforce is going nowhere fast.

As if this was not enough, schemes on the cusp of affiliation are told that its trainees will also need to complete the CITB general health and safety test, even if this material is already incorporated into their programme. Until recently the test was charged at £35 (now £17.50).

In our mind this is bureaucracy gone mad and yet it is not government related. So how do we deal with it? The MCG should take a serious look at this whole area and either allow additional systems of record or insist that the CSCS change its remit. If not the whole programme should be referred to the office of fair trading as a monopoly?

Leigh W. Sparrow

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