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PASMA joins CSCS Partner Card Scheme

PASMA has teamed up with CSCS, the leading card scheme for the UK construction industry, to help managers check that anyone working with complex access towers is suitably qualified.

Starting in 2021, any Access Tower Specialist cards issued will carry the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) logo, providing a familiar and reliable way for clients, employers and contractors to verify qualifications and training.

The holographic logo will only appear on cards held by those who achieve the highest qualification available for access towers, having completed the demanding training programme. These individuals are competent to erect, dismantle and inspect all types of towers, including bespoke structures designed to suit the needs of a site.

The partnership between CSCS and PASMA signifies industry wide agreement that the PASMA Access Tower Specialist course is the required standard of qualification and skill for anyone erecting, dismantling or inspecting complex access towers.

The Skills

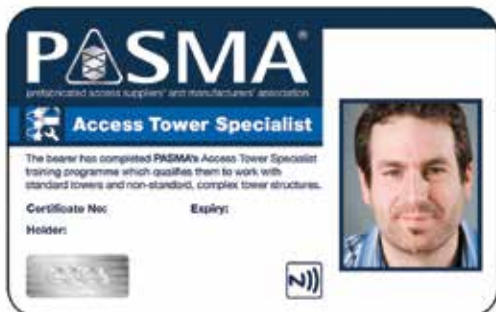
Most access tower specialists work for 'Hire & Assembly' companies, using their skills to build structures where others can work safely at height. Their service covers equipment rental, consultation, specification, design, assembly and dismantling. Working closely with tower manufacturers, they are qualified to:

- Plan the build
- Select safe equipment
- Follow design drawings
- Assemble and dismantle
- Make engineer-approved alterations
- Tie structures into buildings
- Inspect towers
- Collate all paperwork
- Conduct safe handovers

PASMA will continue to issue cards without the CSCS logo to anyone qualified to work with one or more standard configuration towers, such as mobile access towers or cantilever towers. The addition of a CSCS logo means the individual can work with any type of tower and they are the only people qualified to work with custom designed towers.

PASMA managing director Peter Bennett said: "The partnership between PASMA and CSCS is a huge step forward for access tower safety on UK construction sites. If someone arrives to assemble a tower, the site manager can easily check that they are qualified just by viewing the details on their PASMA card.

Anyone holding this card has considerable experience and knowledge of scaffold towers. Gaining industry wide recognition of their specialist skills and level of qualification was a logical move with a big impact on height safety."



Access Tower Specialists

In the last issue of *Cranes & Access* in the item entitled 'A new name for Tower Riggers' we referred to the fact that PASMA is relaunching its training scheme for complex aluminium access towers, and that with it comes a new name for those who complete the challenging programme – they will be referred to as Access Tower Specialists and they will have the skills required to build all types of towers, including bespoke structures designed to meet the needs of a site, however tall, wide or awkward it may be.

It is the highest qualification available for access towers, aimed at those with considerable experience under their belts. They will already be trained on all standard configuration towers – i.e. those that come in a kit with an instruction manual – but the Access Tower Specialist course takes them to the next level, quite literally.

Those who pass all the theory and practical assessments are qualified to use prefabricated aluminium components in surprisingly complex configurations that can go to much greater heights than standard towers.

The structures they build allow others to work safely at height in all sorts of sectors. Their service is known as 'Hire & Assembly' and it covers equipment rental, consultation, specification, design, assembly and dismantling.

Although Access Tower Specialists are competent on all standard configuration towers – mobile access towers, cantilever towers, towers on bridges, tower on stairways, large deck towers and linked towers – it is the bespoke structures that truly showcase their abilities.

These towers can go tall and wide, around, over and under obstacles, give access to multiple levels or stairwells, provide large - and mobile - deck areas, squeeze into tight spaces and be adapted as requirements evolve. Doing all of this with lightweight, prefabricated aluminium components is a specialist skill that is not taught anywhere else.

For more information and to enquire about taking this course, visit pasma.co.uk/ats



Key PASMA events for 2021

- Health & Safety Event (Birmingham) September 7, 2021 - September 9, 2021
- PASMA Conference (Nottingham) September 15, 2021 - September 16, 2021
- No Falls Foundation Charity Ball (Coombe Abbey Hotel) October 30, 2021



 For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk and www.nofallsfoundation.org

www.pasma.co.uk