

UK PLUMBING INDUSTRY LAUNCHES NEW OPERATIVE REGISTRATION SCHEME

Further to the joint press statement in June 2008 announcing the intention to form a UK Plumbing, **Heating & Mechanical Engineering Services Registration Scheme**, thereby bringing together the separate Registration and Grading Schemes of both Joint Industry Boards in England & Wales and Scotland & Northern Ireland which have operated independently since the early 1970s, the Joint Industry Board for the Plumbing Industry in England & Wales (JIB-PMES) is pleased to announce that the Joint **UK Scheme** and its **New Cards** will come into effect from **2nd February 2009**. It will continue to be affiliated to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS).

The aims and objectives of the joint UK Plumbing, Heating & Mechanical Engineering Services (UK-PHMES) Registration Scheme are to:

- Standardise the criteria and procedures for the issue of Plumbing JIB/CSCS Registration Cards in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and use a common design.
- Implement a common and mutually recognised Grading Structure, based on NVQS/SVQS, as an intrinsic and simultaneous part of the Registration Card process with "Plumber" being the basic Grade.
- Promote awareness of Health & Safety in the industry, applying testing where necessary, so that PHMES operatives will always endeavour to undertake their duties in a competent and safe manner.
- Support the introduction of a SMART Card to reduce fraud and protect identity.

The joint scheme cards will be identical, apart from the JIB logo on the front bottom left of the card. A **BLUE** background will indicate that the card was issued by the **JIB-PMES** and **RED** background that it was issued by the **SNIJIB**; with the appropriate contact details for the respective JIB being on the reverse of the card.

Both Joint Industry Boards are committed to improving the levels of competence and professionalism of craft operatives and apprentices working in the plumbing, heating and mechanical engineering services Industries.



Representatives of the two Plumbing Joint Industry Boards and Unite the Union at the launch of the UK Plumbing, Heating & Mechanical Engineering Services Registration Scheme

Mike Simpson, Employer Representative on the England & Wales Joint Industry Board speaking on behalf of employer members said: "I welcome this new development of a closer relationship between the two plumbing JIBs and hope it will be the first step in working together to improve, not only Health & Safety, but skill levels and competences across the plumbing, heating and mechanical engineering services industry throughout the whole of the UK"

Speaking as the lead union representative on both JIB Boards, **John Allott, National Officer for Unite the Union**, welcomed the new UK scheme and said: "I see the formation of the joint scheme as a positive step. It shows that the UK Plumbing Industry is working closely together not only to combat the cowboys in the industry but also to emphasise its ongoing commitment to improving Health and Safety on a united front throughout the UK"

Common Grading Definitions and Categories

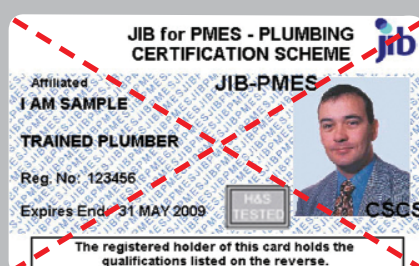
The formation of the Joint Scheme will also result in the unification of grading definitions throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As a consequence, the definition 'Trained Plumber' will be replaced by 'Plumber' (to be the basic Grade) and 'Technical Plumber' will be replaced by 'Plumbing Technician'. A full list of the revised grading definitions for all craft operative categories is in the course of preparation and will be published early in 2009.

New look cards

As from **2nd February 2009**, a new **UK-PHMES CSCS Registration Scheme Card** will be introduced to reflect the formation of the UK Plumbing, Heating & Mechanical Engineering Services CSCS affiliated Registration Scheme. Examples of the new and the existing card designs are shown below:



New UK-PHMES Registration Scheme Card



OLD Existing JIB-PMES/CSCS Scheme Card

Replacement cards with the new design will be available to existing registration scheme members from February 2009 should they wish to swap their old card for a new one. In order to obtain a newly designed card, existing card holders should contact the JIB-PMES, complete a simple form and wait for their new style card to arrive. There will be a one off charge of £5.00 for this replacement service. Existing scheme members who do not wish to replace their cards will automatically be sent a new **UK-PHMES Registration Scheme Card** on renewal of their scheme membership.

For further information please contact the JIB-PMES at Lovell House, Sandpiper Court, Phoenix Business Park, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8EP, email info@jib-pmes.org.uk or telephone 01480 476925.