

Grading Criteria Information

From **1st January 2025**, all current approved ACCS certifiers, and those registering for the first time, will require to hold a recognised industry plumbing and heating qualification, for example, an SVQ/NVQ level 2 or 3 or equivalent (or previous historic qualification, such as City & Guilds or SCOTVEC).

Approved ACCS certifiers who joined the scheme prior to 1st January 2025 and who don't currently hold the recognised industry plumbing and heating qualification, will require to register for the SQA "**Experienced Worker Assessment Route**" with one of the colleges on the attached list. Please note that this is an **assessment** and not an apprenticeship course, which will allow an individual to achieve their plumbing and heating SVQ level 3 qualification.

The length of time taken to gain the SVQ level 3 will depend on the qualifications already held by an individual and the time it takes an individual to gather their evidence of experience. The assessment method combines the use of:

- Witness testimonies
- Employer endorsement
- Practical assessment
- A professional discussion and question and answers.

Once the individual has registered for the assessment, they should then contact the SNIJIB offices and apply for an SNIJIB "**Experienced Worker**" card, which will allow the individual access onto construction sites. **Please note** that although these cards have a 3-year life span, for the purposes of the ACCS, an individual must have successfully passed the assessment by **31st December 2025**.

The ACCS Scheme Rules are being amended in line with the changes made by the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) following the withdrawal of the Grandfather Rights which allowed individuals to receive a CSCS/SNIJIB registration card based on experience rather than qualifications.

As from 1st January 2025, the ACCS Scheme Rules will be amended to read:

"Must have been graded as an Advanced or Technician Plumber or Heating Engineer or Heating Technician with the Scottish & Northern Ireland Joint Industry Board (SNIJIB) or the Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services in England and Wales (JIB-PMES) and hold an SVQ or NVQ level 2 or 3 or equivalent.

Certifiers who joined the scheme prior to 31st December 2024 and do not hold the recognised qualifications will require to register for the Experienced Worker Assessment Route and have achieved this by 31 December 2025. During this period, they must hold an Experienced Worker Card issued by the Scottish & Northern Ireland Joint Industry Board (SNIJIB) or the Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services in England and Wales (JIB-PMES) until such time as they achieve their Advanced Grading.

For clarification on the revised ACC scheme rules, please contact the schemes department on 0131 357 2440 or email schemes@snipef.org

For further information on the SQA **Experienced Worker Assessment Route** or levels of qualification, please contact the SNIJIB on 0131 524 1225 or email info@snijib.org

Finally, if you have lost your qualifications, copies can be requested from one of these certification bodies:

SQA: 0845 279 1000

Website: click [here](#)

City & Guilds: 0207 294 2468

Website: click [here](#)