GROUP COMPETENCE SCHEME (GCS)

NICEIC Certification is recognised and approved to offer GCS by Energy & Utility Skills and UKAS as an alternative to ACS. We have, for some time Certificated a large UK Utility Company to operate GCS for its engineering workforce. GCS is designed for medium to large sized organisations and can be implemented within your business to cover any scope of Gas work required, Domestic, non-Domestic, LPG or Emergency Service Provider.

WHAT IS GCS?

All Gas Safe Registered engineers are required by law to renew their safety competences every five years. Previously, the Accredited Certification Scheme (ACS) was the only way that this renewal could be achieved. GCS is now one of a number of routes that an operative can prove their Competence, along with ACS & Aligned NVQ/SVQ Qualifications.

Developed in collaboration with gas companies and the Energy & Utility Skills Group, the Group Competence Scheme (GCS) has been developed so you can use the current systems and processes your business has to confirm the competence of your Gas Safe registered staff. It removes the need for your staff to undertake ACS assessments and could result in cost savings for your business.

The scheme collects evidence of appropriate Matters of Gas Safety (MoGS) criteria coverage from the workplace and other sources to gain a detailed record of your employees competence. The information and evidence gathered forms the basis for continual assessment which removes the need to rely on a single snapshot assessment every five years.

GCS places the responsibility of "Gas Safety" on the employer, the "employer" who will be judging their engineers competence over a continuous 5 year process and then issuing a relevant certificate.

The business will develop an audit/assessment process, procedures and documentation that will cover the GCS criteria and the audit/assessment process will be based upon the scope of work the business undertakes within the GCS. The assessment criteria will be handed over to the business including the twice a yearly up-dates, it will be the business that will compile/amend its own audit/assessment paperwork to ensure all the necessary MoGS criteria are covered for the GCS.

The audit process may cover the full scope of the business operation or be limited to specific areas and scope (those only covered within the business GCS membership).

The business will have to engage the services of a GCS certification body (Accredited to EN 17021) to audit and certify the business, plus download the individual engineer qualifications to Gas Safe Register (GSR). The GCS is for "Re-Assessment only", any extension of scope will be via initial ACS, within a EN 17024 assessment centre. If an engineer leaves a business, then they will have the remainder of the 5 years on any GCS qualifications. The GCS is fully endorsed by the Industry Standards Setting Body and is supported by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

WHO IS IT FOR?

Employers within the gas industry.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Uses your business processes for informing and updating employees and may be delivered in-house using evidence gathered from the workplace.
- You confirm the competence of your own employees, and may use your own assessors. Facilitates renewal of your employees' Gas Safe registration.
- Aligns to your obligations under the Health & Safety at Work Act.
- Limited downtime and assessment costs.
- Can be tailored specifically to your business and ways of working.

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