

25 January 2021

Covid-19 Road and Street Works Bulletin 005.5: Training & Accreditation.

Dear Colleagues,

With the increase in Covid-19 cases and current restrictions, we have become aware of some difficulties that street works operatives and supervisors are continuing to experience in renewing street works cards owing to reduced capacity of assessment centres as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and other parts of the street works accreditation system.

SWQR have shared the following with the HAUC community;

“January 2021 update – Card Exemption.

In conjunction with the key stakeholders who regulate and administer the Street Works scheme, the following statement has been agreed to advise Street Works Operatives and Supervisors:

The ‘exemption’ from the card enforcement policy will remain in place until 31 March 2021. Card Enforcement Officers will exercise a degree of leniency, as it is recognised that works must continue, but that card holders may be unable to renew their cards due to Assessment Centres being closed. This means that you will be able to continue to work if your card has expired since March 2020.

For Operatives or Supervisors whose cards have expired since March 2020, or are due to expire before 31 March 2021, and have been unable to Re-assess due to the COVID restrictions, you must Re-assess at the earliest opportunity, please bear in mind that your card is valid for 5 years, and can be Re-assessed up to 5 years after the card expiry date.

For Operatives and Supervisors who hold Re-registration cards, please continue to submit your applications as usual, as there is no requirement to attend an Assessment Centre you can apply to renew your card through the normal process.

if you are unable to attend a centre near you which has closed under the latest COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, please contact the Awarding Organisations that supplied your Certificate.”

“Additionally, due to the current lockdown restrictions in place in Scotland, we have been instructed not to attend the office and, as such, card printing has ceased. This will be reviewed at the end of January and a decision will be made at that point on when we will be able to return”

At the end of this note is an SWQR Addendum in a question and answer format to assist with this situation.

Current Bulletins during Covid-19, 001.3 essential works, 002.1 defects, 004 Section 81 defective apparatus, 005.5 Streetworks ticket, 006 charges and permits, 007.1 Green Transport Restart, 008.2 Good practice during the Covid-19 recovery, 010 local Covid hotspots, 011 Working in the third set of National restrictions



Department
for Transport



However, it remains essential that street works do not stop entirely, and some cards will lapse, or replacement cards may not be available through no fault of the holders. We are therefore writing regarding card enforcement policy to ask that street authorities bear this in mind up until March 2021.

Please remember that competent staff are essential to safe sites and this advice does not mean that the requirements for qualified staff on sites has been waived. They should still be able to evidence their card even if it has expired or not been replaced within the terms of this advice.

Best Regards

Peter Loft and David Latham
Joint Chairs HAUC England

Agreed by all parties including the DfT, HAUC UK, JAG, Street Works UK, RAUC Scotland & DCMS. For Wales and Northern Ireland see advice in italics below provided by them.

Update for Re-registration candidates operating in Wales and Northern Ireland

Card holders will be aware of the various updates on our website, with regards to renewal of Re-assessment cards.

Please note, that as Re-registration does not require any assessment you should continue to renew your cards even if you have been furloughed, cannot obtain a new passport photograph, or your employer / manager has instructed you not to, as there is an 'extension' in place.

Card renewal is the responsibility of the individual who holds it, and unless instructed by SWQR you should renew your card within the card validity date, or as a last resort within the three month run-out period for your card.

If you are unclear how to act, or require advice please contact the Street Works Team on: Email - swqr@sqa.org.uk, Tel - 0345 270 2720 or via the contact form on our website <https://www.swqr.org.uk/SWQR/Contact>

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SWQR Addendum

Street Works Card Production – January 2021

In accordance with government advice, card production for Operatives and Supervisors will cease from 14 January until 31 January. The decision on whether card production can resume in February will be posted on this website and will be based upon further updates and levels of restrictions imposed by government.

What does this mean for centres and candidates?

Centres and candidates should continue to submit applications to Street Works as normal, we will respond to emails and answer phone enquiries 09:00 – 17:00, Monday to Friday. All applications sent to us will be held by Royal Mail and processed when we return to our offices. Please call us for urgent enquiries only.

Can Street Works confirm to employers / inspectors that I am on the Register?

Street Works can confirm to the candidate via e-mail if:

- we have received and processed your application;
- you are on the Register;
- your card has still to be printed.

Can I submit my applications electronically?

Street Works will shortly be publishing a digital application form, which will be available on our website for candidates and centres to submit their applications. We will also be contacting centres with high volumes of applications to submit these via SharePoint.

How do I make sure I am kept up to date with any changes?

You can sign up to our License Reminder and Alerts service on our website at <https://www.swqr.org.uk/SWQR/subscribeToAlerts>, You can also check our website for our regular updates on changes to our application processing etc.

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