

Important changes to National Highways Sector Schemes 2B, 5A and 5B for Vehicle Restraint Systems including Parapets

The European standard (EN 1317) for vehicle restraint systems (VRS) includes requirements for both vehicle safety barriers and parapets. During the recent review of training and qualifications for installers of VRS the committees for vehicle safety barriers (NHSS 2B) and parapets (NHSS 5B) agreed to merge and create a single Sector Scheme for Permanent VRS installation (NHSS 10B).

See table below for the proposed new NHSS 10 structure:

Previous Scheme and Scope ISO 9001:2008	Proposed Scope of Replacement Schemes ISO 9001:2015	Scheme Published YES/NO
5A Manufacture of Parapets expanded to cover appropriate barrier requirements	10A has been allocated to the Manufacture of Replacement Parts for Legacy VRS.	No
2B Installation of Vehicle Restraint Systems (Permanent vehicle safety barrier)	10B (not including permanent pre-cast products or cast in place products)	Yes – Available from 01 March 2017
5B Installation of Vehicle Restraint Systems (Bridge Parapets)		
2B Installation of Vehicle Restraint Systems (Temporary vehicle safety barrier)	10C (will include permanent pre-cast products)	No – Target date available from 2018

Important Note: As an interim measure to allow Certification Bodies to be accredited to NHSS 10B and permit registration of organizations for VRS the Committee will be producing a combined NHSS 2B and 5B 9001:2015 version which will be available from 1st February 2018.

How does this affect the validity of certification?

- Organizations may continue to be registered to NHSS2B and NHSS5B until the expiry of their certification to ISO 9001:2008 or when the ISO 9001:2008 document is withdrawn (whichever is sooner)
- Organizations that do not have ISO 9001: 2015 certification by September 2018 will not be covered i.e. may not comply with contract requirements
- All certificates to ISO 9001: 2008 will become invalid from September 2018 when migration to ISO 9001:2015 should be complete. From 1st March 2018, all assessments must be carried out against the ISO 9001:2015 versions
- Note: The scope of NHSS 10B does not include the installation of temporary VRS nor permanent precast VRS, these systems are to be included in NHSS 10C, which is expected to be available in 2018

Summary of changes to training and competency requirements

- Current competency Fencing Industry Skills Schemes (FISS)/Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) (FISS/CSCS) for NHSS 2B and 5B will continue to be accepted. Note: Whilst qualifications will remain valid, Installers will be required to complete training in accordance with NHSS 10B when they renew their FISS/CSCS cards (Any changes to routes to achievement/update of card are detailed in NHSS 10B document and/or the FISS/CSCS scheme booklet – see below for link)
- Skills requirements for parapet installers are now included in section 7.2 and Appendix C of the NHSS 10B document for Vehicle Restraint Systems
- 10B Foundation, Installer courses replace the 2-day core
- 10B Foundation, Installer, 3-day NPSBS, replaces the 5-day Basic course
- Candidates still need to undertake VRS product specific training and hold a current valid blue FISS/CSCS skills card to be deemed competent to undertake installation of that product. Achievements will either appear on the reverse of a holder's blue FISS/CSCS card or in the case of a smart card will be uploaded onto the card's chip. The FISS/CSCS [smart card](#) has been launched
- Blue FISS/CSCS VRS card holders applying to renew their cards are required to successfully complete the installer course and other defined FISS/CSCS requirements (See FISS/CSCS booklet)
- The product specific training and other courses e.g. installer course will be uploaded to the chip on the FISS/CSCS smart card
- Existing FISS/CSCS VRS blue cards will be updated to include product specific training and other courses upon renewal
- Holders of CRO cards for parapets are able to renew using the route shown in the FISS/CSCS information booklet until a plan is made available by 2020 to develop a qualification which incorporates parapets
- Holders of CRO cards for VRS automated gates and barriers are able to renew using the route shown in the FISS/CSCS information booklet until a plan is made available by 2020 to develop a training and skills route for these occupations
- Holders of CRO cards for temporary VRS installers are able to renew using the route shown in the FISS/CSCS scheme booklet as an interim solution until NHSS 10C is developed

Further information can be found in the FISS/CSCS Scheme Information Booklet and the Routes to Achieving Cards (flowcharts) document found on the following link:

<http://www.lantra.co.uk/nhss/fisscscs>

UKAS accreditation of Certification Bodies

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) requires that any assessments conducted after 14 March 2018 shall be in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 standard. To allow this to happen, the Sector Scheme Committee has produced an interim 9001:2015 version of NHSS 2B and 5B combining both schemes in a single document. This will enable Certification Bodies accredited to NHSS 2B and/or NHSS 5B to continue registering VRS organizations including temporary VRS. (Note: NHSS 10B does not include requirements for temporary VRS).

Certification Bodies that already hold accreditation for NHSS 2B, NHSS 5B and NHSS 5A may issue registration certificates against schemes covered within sector scheme 10 (currently only NHSS 10B) under the rules for families (See NHSS 0 part 4 – February 2018). UKAS will verify extension to scope during subsequent assessment visits. Witness assessments will not normally be required prior to updating the UKAS schedule to add the scope.

Certification Bodies applying for accreditation to NHSS 10 and/or NHSS 2B/5B for the first time will need to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and competency within their organisation, including their auditors, to assess organizations to NHSS 10 and/or NHSS 2B/5B. This will include at least one witness assessment by UKAS. (Minimum requirements (including knowledge) are contained in Appendices G and G1 of the sector scheme documents)."