

PROMOTING SMART TECHNOLOGY

A photograph of a construction site featuring a modern building with a blue glass facade. In the foreground, several construction workers wearing white and blue hard hats and high-visibility yellow-green vests are looking towards the building. The sky is clear and blue.

**Build UK SmartCard
Audit Results 2019**

 **BUILDUK**
Leading the Construction Industry

GOING SMART

In 2015, the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) set a requirement for all card schemes carrying the CSCS logo to introduce smart technology by 2020.

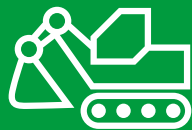
Smart technology allows companies to quickly and easily identify that an individual has achieved the agreed standard of training and qualifications in their occupation.

This year's annual Build UK and CECA SmartCard Audit took place on 25 September 2019.



Organisations

39



Sites

745



Cards Audited

49,127

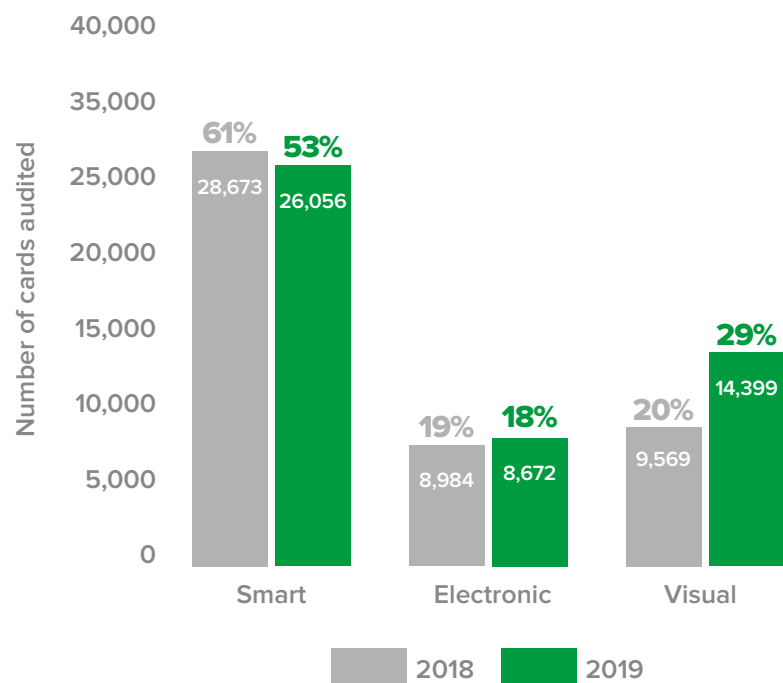
OBJECTIVES

- To increase the uptake of smart technology within the construction industry by helping Build UK and CECA members to realise the benefits to their businesses, supply chains and the wider industry.
- To identify any expired and fraudulent cards and make sure that individuals on their sites have the correct qualifications and training for the occupations they are undertaking.



THE SMARTCARD AUDIT

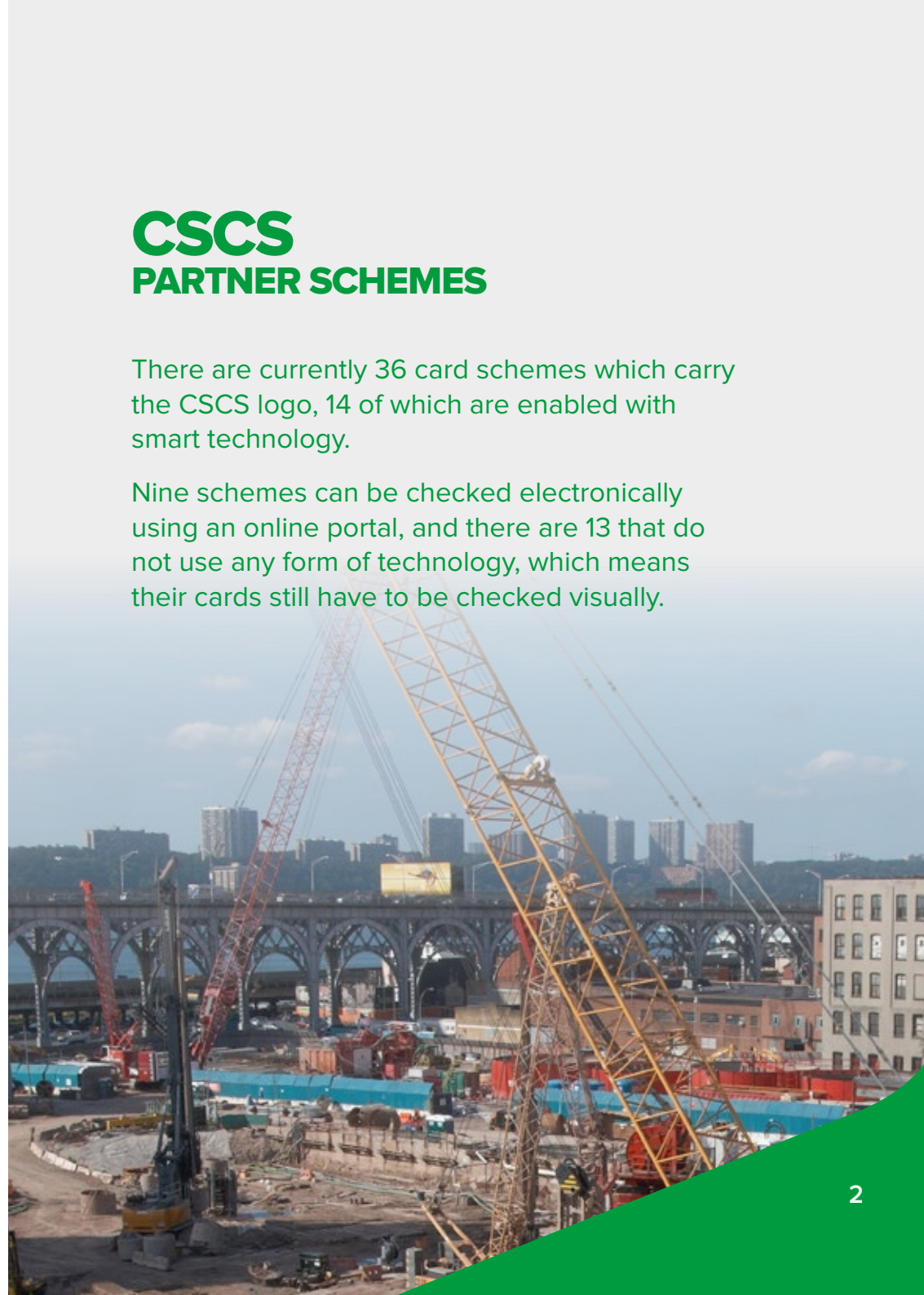
Cards carrying the CSCS logo were checked using either Site Access machines or the Go Smart app to ensure they were genuine and had not expired or been cancelled due to suspected fraud. Where the technology was not available or cards were not smart, they were inspected visually.



CSCS PARTNER SCHEMES

There are currently 36 card schemes which carry the CSCS logo, 14 of which are enabled with smart technology.

Nine schemes can be checked electronically using an online portal, and there are 13 that do not use any form of technology, which means their cards still have to be checked visually.



BENEFITS OF SMART TECHNOLOGY

- Smart technology is the most effective way of ensuring a card is genuine. Not only are fraudsters unable to recreate smart technology but, where false qualification certificates or test centre cheating is discovered, cards can have their chips cancelled remotely.
- Checking cards using smart technology takes no more than a few seconds, eliminating the need for paper records or waiting on the phone whilst a card's validity is checked. It is the most efficient way of confirming a cardholder's identity and ensuring they have the appropriate training and qualifications for the occupation they are undertaking.
- Cards enabled with smart technology can also link with access control and project management systems, helping to improve the way companies manage their training records.



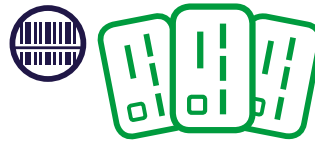
CHALLENGES

- Only 14 of the 36 CSCS partner schemes are enabled with smart technology, which means there are a number of cards that still have to be checked visually.
- Those CSCS partner schemes that are smart do not all use the same technology. A number of cards have chips, others have QR codes and some have both, which means a range of devices and software are required on each site. For example, Site Access machines can only check a card which has a chip, whereas Apple devices can only check a card which has a QR code.

Card Scheme	Number of Cards Audited	Smart	Electronic	Visual	Smart Technology
CSCS	33,992	70%	0.0%	30%	Yes - Chip
CPCS	3,626	N/A	59.2%	40.8%	Electronic
EUSR	3,397	N/A	99.3%	0.7%	Electronic
ECS	3,410	N/A	71.5%	28.5%	Electronic
CISRS	1,078	N/A	19.8%	80.2%	Electronic
SKILLCard	701	62.2%	0.0%	37.8%	Yes - Chip
PHMES	606	79.9%	0.0%	20.1%	Yes - Chip
CCDO	384	79.2%	0.0%	20.8%	Yes - Chip & QR code
Q-Card	355	69.3%	0.0%	30.7%	Yes - QR code
CSR NI	229	N/A	94.3%	5.7%	Electronic
Other	1,349	58.8%	21.3%	19.9%	N/A

CHALLENGES

- Smaller sites are more likely to check cards visually for a variety of reasons, including cost, time and technological limitations. For example, the Go Smart app, which is often used on smaller sites, is currently unable to read cards with chips on Apple phones, which is the most widely used brand.
- Whilst checking a card using smart technology confirms the training and qualifications held by the cardholder, there still needs to be a process in place to ensure that it is the right card for the occupation being undertaken on site.



The average size of site checking cards **electronically**

99 operatives on site



The average size of site checking cards **visually**

35 operatives on site

FOCUS ON: THE LABOURER CARD

- **1,324 Labourer cards** were read during this year's SmartCard Audit
- Further investigation confirmed that **only 40%** of these cards were held by those undertaking the role of a labourer
- Reasons given for holding the wrong card included:
 - No card available for their occupation
 - Currently undertaking the qualification for a Skilled Worker card
 - A Labourer Card was the easiest card for them to get.



484 cards had expired. This represented 1% of cards audited, which was down from 1.7% in 2018.

All fraudulent cards identified during the audit were **reported** to the appropriate authorities.

WHAT TO DO IF A FRAUDULENT CARD IS SUSPECTED

1. Retain the card if possible
2. Make photocopies of front and back
3. Record cardholder's name and address
4. Ask cardholder where the card was obtained from
5. Call the local police and report the matter
6. Refuse access to site (subject to company rules)
7. Forward copies of all evidence with details of crime number given by local police to:
CSCS Ltd - 85 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 4TQ

Find out more

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