The Creative Skillset Certificate in temporary power systems and the new City and Guilds Accredited NA7909 Temporary Electrical Systems training programme.

**Summary**

* The successful industry accepted Creative Skillset Certificate in temporary electrical systems has been turned into a City and Guilds accredited training programme.
* It changes from a two-day course to three days
* It now includes a practical assessment
* Existing holders of a Creative Skillset Certificate can do a one-day practical assessment to gain the City & Guilds Accredited Temporary Electrical Systems - NA7909-(1)
* The new training programme gives employers greater confidence that candidates are competent to work with temporary power systems
* The new training programme will include the relevant changes to the forthcoming 18th Edition of the IET Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) and also the corresponding changes to the temporary power standard, BS 7909. Successful candidates will be eligible to join an independent industry focussed electrical competency register
* The Creative Skillset course will cease to be delivered in 2018

**Background**

The Creative Skillset in Temporary Power Systems was designed as a CPD course for practitioners in the industry and has been operational since 2015, with around 1300 candidates taking the course to date. It has been very successful and we have built on this progress of bringing existing practitioners up to date with the latest standards and safe working practices by gaining City and Guilds accreditation for the course.

Of all the courses run to date, the consistent feedback from candidates has been that a practical element would be beneficial and that it should be run over three days.

Working with the competency assessment scheme NAPIT to accredit the course, we have developed a third day that includes a practical assessment on top of the existing class-based course. The third day includes practical inspection and testing and enables candidates to demonstrate competence in this area. In essence, the City & Guilds Accredited Temporary Electrical Systems - NA7909-(3) comprises the existing Creative Skillset course, plus an extra practical assessment.

The new course follows the format of the previous one so the core learning objectives and the learning outcomes are the same; there is no change in the standard required or the necessary results required to pass. The only change is, in effect, the addition of a third day which has a practical assessment. Candidates who already hold the Creative Skillset Certificate are deemed to have sufficient prior learning and so only need to successfully complete the extra day in order to qualify. Separate one-day courses for previous candidates will be run along with the new three-day ones.

This change enables employers to be more confident that holders of the City and Guilds accredited training programme are up to date with the latest standards and also have a degree of practical competency to inspect and test temporary electrical systems and document their safe operation.

The new course will include the relevant changes to the forthcoming 18th Edition of the IET Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) and also the corresponding changes to the temporary power standard, BS 7909. However, because there is insufficient time on the single practical day to include the updates, candidates who have previously passed the Skillset course might benefit from an additional (separate) update course. There are plans for one which will give candidates training in the significant changes to both BS 7671 and BS 7909 planned for 2018, and it is hope to get this City & Guilds accredited as well.

**Assessment scheme**

Employers regularly take on freelance electricians, but often do not know how to actually judge whether their electrical skills and qualifications are sufficient. In mainstream electrical contracting work (such as domestic or commercial installations for example) there are several independent competency assessment schemes for electricians. Members of such schemes will have been assessed by an independent inspector and will have shown they have sufficient skills and knowledge in the areas they work in.

To date none have developed a scheme specifically targeted at practitioners working with temporary power in events, entertainment and film/TV. To coincide with the launch of the new City and Guilds training programme, NAPIT has now developed a competency scheme specifically targeted at this industry with inspectors familiar with the different sectors. It has been developed in accordance with the Government backed Electrotechnical Assessment Scheme requirements for electrical personnel, universally accepted as being a measure of suitable competence in electrical work.

In essence, a member of the NAPIT scheme will have demonstrated electrical competency and that they run a bona-fide business with adequate insurance. The scheme is operated by NAPIT ([www.napit.org.uk](http://www.napit.org.uk)).

**Questions**

*I’ve already passed the Skillset certificate. What do I need to do to complete the City & Guilds Accredited training program?*

You can attend a one-day practical assessment course. If you pass that and can provide your existing Creative Skillset Certificate, you’ll be awarded the City & Guilds Accredited Temporary Electrical Systems - NA7909-(1)

*What’s involved in the extra day course?*

This day comprises a short recap on the requirements for testing and inspection and then a practical session on inspecting, typically using visual images which require written responses from the candidate on what they can identify in the pictures. The testing element will comprise a practical rig where candidates can test circuits and verify the operation of protective devices, as well as demonstrate safe isolation practices.

*Do I need to do an update course?*

If you complete the new three-day course, you will be up to date with the latest changes to the Standards so no additional course will be necessary. If you are doing the one-day course, or just interested in upskilling, it would be beneficial as there are some significant changes to electrical safety requirements since the 17th Edition of BS 7671. Although there is no technical requirement to do it, it is an easy method of demonstrating to employers you are up to date with current practices and it is therefore recommended.

*How much is it?*

As it’s now a City and Guilds Accredited program, and an extra day, it is inevitable that costs have increased. The current rates proposed (subject to final confirmation) are £495.00 for the three-day course and £295 for the one-day practical day. Prices are per-candidate and subject to VAT. There will be a minimum number of candidates required for courses to run. These prices are typical of electrical courses for those operating in the commercial and domestic sectors.

*What are the entry requirements?*

In the spirit of the previous course, there are no barriers to entry. There are no pre-qualification requirements as many working in the industry do not hold formal electrical qualifications and may have learned on the job or through unofficial apprenticeships. Candidates are expected to have working knowledge of electrical basics and to have experience of working in industry. Previous successful candidates on the Skillset course have ranged from generator operators to sound engineers and production managers.

*Can I just do the old Creative Skillset course?*

It would be impractical to run the two courses in parallel and it risks confusing industry as it leads to the question from employers of ‘which is the better demonstration of competency’? The new course is better in this respect so we don’t expect many to want to do the old one. For that reason it’ll cease to be delivered in 2018.

*I’m already a qualified electrician. Why should I do this?*

Existing electrical courses aimed at the domestic and commercial sectors do not provide training in aspects such as management of temporary systems, the application of the testing requirements of BS 7909, RCD selectivity, cable selection, generator operation or earthing requirements for example. While the core electrical theory is the same, the application isn’t, so this course is still recommended, as well as being required by many employers.