

# Competency testing soon

A nationally consistent set of H&S competencies being developed by the Construction Safety Council will be rolled out shortly, part of an industry response to government's intention to raise construction safety standards.

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**AFTER SOME** 24 months in development, the Construction Safety Council (CSC) will soon launch the initial stage (Tier 1) of its competency-testing regime. Tier 1 comprises seven hazard categories and a series of competencies under each category.

This matrix is the result of competency and hazard information collected from across the spectrum of construction industry activities from major civil and commercial environments to small operators.

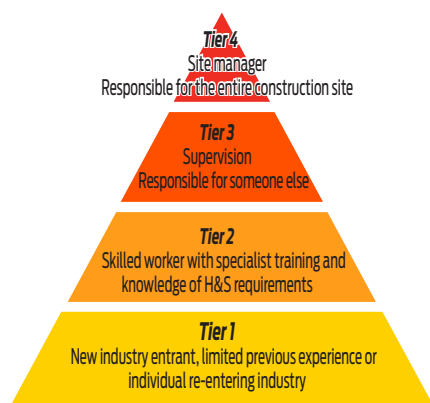


Figure 1: Construction Safety Council health and safety competency framework.

The data was collected through the CSC member organisations – Specialist Trades Contractors' Federation, Registered Master Builders Association, Roothing New Zealand, Certified Builders and the New Zealand Contractors' Federation.

## Centralised and integrated

The CSC health and safety framework (see Figure 1) is a response to industry demands for a central integrated health and safety regime.

Industry is wary, however, of introducing yet another card to the system, so CSC will ensure existing suppliers can add a CSC endorsement to their cards, and new suppliers may be able to issue CSC cards.

CSC's processes have recently been reviewed by ACC and WorkSafe New Zealand who commissioned a report from Dr Susanne Bahn of Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. Dr Bahn carried out a comprehensive consultation throughout the sector. She considered the framework to be world leading and recommended its support by government.

## Four tiers of skills

Tier 1 is focused on those who are new to the industry and is designed to ensure they are safe from the people and hazards around them on any construction site and to ensure other people are safe from them.

Tier 2 will be more specific to trade disciplines and will be incorporated within trades training.

Tiers 3 and 4 are focused on supervision and multi-site management competencies respectively.

## Competency testing

The CSC model is based on testing competency rather than providing training. It recognises that there are competent training organisations already operating in the sector and multiple ways an individual can access the knowledge required.

Tier 1 competency software development is almost complete and will shortly be tested through a number of trial sites. ◀

**For more** Visit the CSC website at [www.cscnz.co.nz](http://www.cscnz.co.nz).