

# ECS ANNUAL REVIEW 2025



The Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) is the digital competence and identification card scheme for electrotechnical operatives developed and agreed by industry. The ECS scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, is administered by the  The Electrotechnical JIB Setting employment standards

## STEERING ON STRATEGY

The ECS Steering Committee brings together leading industry bodies – including ECA, SELECT, Unite the Union, IET, Electrical Safety First, SSAIB, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) – to ensure that ECS card requirements reflect real-world skills, knowledge, experience, and behaviours. It oversees key requirements such as health, safety, and environmental awareness, fire safety in buildings, CPD and revalidation.

The Committee, chaired by Phil Wilbraham, plays a key role in setting the strategic direction of ECS and

helps uphold competence, safety and professionalism in the industry. It ensures that apprenticeships, vocational and other qualification routes are mapped to relevant competence frameworks or National Occupational Standards. It also strives to improve user journeys with digital innovation and artificial intelligence.

In 2025 it focused on aligning sector groups such as Fire and Security and Network Infrastructure, with updated competence frameworks. ECS has driven forward this agenda forward with government and the BSR.

## COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY

In the past year competence has moved from policy to delivery across the electrotechnical sector. Strong industry leadership has been central to this progress with collaboration a defining feature. Rather than taking fragmented approaches, industry groups have come together to ensure that shared competence frameworks are credible, consistent and grounded in real work.

JIB Chief Executive Jay Parmar is a representative on the Industry Competence Committee (ICC), which was formed following the Building Safety Act 2022 to provide independent oversight. Jay has helped ensure the electrotechnical sector's perspective informs national decision making, with particular insight into how competence, assurance and revalidation must operate in practice.

As the Electrotechnical Function Lead for Skills Leadership Group 10 (SLG 10), the JIB has translated national direction into usable, sector-specific competence frameworks. This work has aligned qualifications, experience, assessment and ongoing competence – to support employers, individuals and clients. This moves the sector, in line with safety expectations and regulation, beyond one-off certification towards continuous assurance. It also recognises the growing importance of revalidation and lifelong competence.

ECS is central to embedding these frameworks into card schemes and certification. It brings clarity on workforce capability and competence standards – for employers, clients and regulators – and fair, recognised progression routes for individuals.

## ECS STEERING COMMITTEE



Excellence in Electrotechnical & Engineering Services



The UK's electrical safety experts



### 190,000 ECS CARDS

ECS supports more than 190,000 valid cardholders across the UK built environment sector. As part of the CSCS Alliance, ECS works alongside other schemes to improve card-checking procedures. Cardholders can use the MyECS app and the CSCS Smart Check app to present cards virtually.

## COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK GROUPS

JIB COO, Andy Reakes oversees the following groups as Electrotechnical Function Lead:

- Low Voltage (LV) Electrical
- Fire, Emergency and Security Systems (FESS)
- Network Infrastructure
- LV Cabling and Jointing
- Panel Wiring (Power Supply and Distribution)
- Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS)
- Telecoms – Fixed and Mobile

## CHAMPIONING SKILLS

The JIB and ECS team travelled to national and regional events in 2025 to champion skills and competence in the sector speaking to more than 500 people about the latest developments on competence, digital certification, the role of the BSR and funding for skills development.

We attended all six Elex shows where Dan Woods, Industry Engagement Manager, Andy Reakes, Chief Operating Officer; and Roger Horne, Head of Membership presented well-received talks. Martin Thurbon, Head of Service Operations, and the team were also on hand at each show to help with any queries related to ECS cards and JIB membership.

In April, Dan shared insights at the Fire and Safety Event at the NEC. Andy and Dan also joined discussions to encourage industry collaboration on apprenticeships training at the Electrotechnical Training and Careers Alliance (ETCA) events in the West Midlands, Manchester, Kent, Cumbria and Wales. In May, Jay Parmar,



CEO, spoke at the BCIA Members Conference. During the summer Dan represented JIB and ECS at the Installer Show and to lend support to JIB Member Darke & Taylor Ltd, at the opening of the company's Electrical Apprenticeship training centre in Oxford.

Andy promoted the work of the JIB and ECS at the Fire & Security Careers Fair at South Eastern Regional College (SERC) Lisburn, Northern Ireland. He also shared insights beyond the sector, speaking,

at the Memberwise Network's Digital Excellence Conference in June, about how ECS uses smart tech to improve competence and safety.

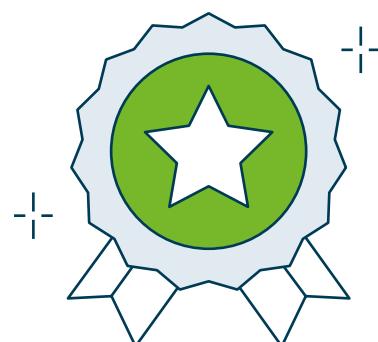
In October Dan presented on competence requirements and ECS at the Association of Security Consultants Conference (ConSec) at Hinckley Hall. Later in the month the team also returned to ExCel, London for the Smart Buildings Show to showcase how the JIB and ECS are helping to upskill the workforce in support.

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ECS was shortlisted for two prestigious industry awards in June 2025. At the Enginuity Skills Awards, ECS was nominated alongside ZZEUS Training in the Training Partner for Skills category. The partnership, formed in 2022 to provide a route for experienced workers in the fire system sector to meet post-Grenfell competence recommendations. It has provided meaningful qualifications for learners, including those completing the NVQ from EAL to gain industry recognition.

At the Fire & Security Matters (FSM) Awards we were nominated alongside BPEC in the 'Security Innovation of the Year' category for work on the BPEC FESS Experienced Worker Assessment.

The JIB and ECS were also nominated as Digital Team of the Year at the Tech Fest Awards in 2025, recognising strong performance in introducing an AI enabled application process; biometric checking for ID and assessments; and AI led guidance systems for greater simplicity and transparency.



**Andy Reakes, COO, explained:** "These nominations are a tremendous recognition for the joint industry work across the Fire, Emergency, and Security Systems sector in recent years to provide flexible and pragmatic ways to evidence the level of competency in the FESS sector."

Andy was also a finalist in Innovator of the Year category for the Institute of Telecommunications Professionals Awards 2025, recognising his work digitising the ECS processes, overseeing the introduction of AI and automation steps and, as Chair of the CSCS Smart Check development group, helping to raise competency standards across the industry.

## 18+ EVENTS AND TRADE SHOWS

In 2025 500+ people attended live events to hear updates and guidance on ECS, competence and standards. Highlights included:

### 6 x Elex Shows

Bolton, London, Exeter, Harrogate, Coventry, and Sandown Park, Esher

### The Smart Buildings Show

London

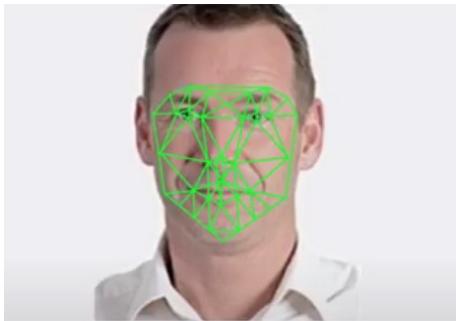
### The Fire and Safety Event

Birmingham

### The Association of Security Consultants Conference

Hinckley





## INNOVATIONS IN IDVT

Early in 2025, after working closely with the industry vetting service Experian, we launched Identity Document Verification Technology (IDVT). This enables individuals to confirm their identity, via their mobile phone, using biometric facial mapping. As well as speeding up the application process, this enhances security, helping to reduce fraud.

In November 2025 we extended the availability of IDVT to employers, giving them the option to quickly and simply undertake IDVT for their staff using smart phones.

We encourage both employers and employees to use IDVT as it provides the following benefits:

- Acts as an enhanced security method, protecting personal information and preventing fraudulent activity.
- Provides a streamlined process, eliminating the need for a third party to validate the individual's identity.
- Serves as a sustainable method, through the reduction of printed materials.
- Improves the overall customer experience, with less time required to complete the application.

**Andy Reakes, COO said: "This secure, government-standard identity verification technology is another example of how ECS is using innovation to strengthen integrity and efficiency across our systems for the benefit of both employers and cardholders."**

Find out more [here](#).

## SUPPORT FOR THE UK'S NET ZERO AIM



By investing in structured training through approved schemes, electricians and their employers can future-proof their careers while contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions. ECS supports solutions and initiatives which do not bypass competency and align with industry-wide standards, such as the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification and TESP's Electrician Plus.

We approve low-carbon qualifications which uphold safety, technical excellence, and regulatory compliance. Individuals working for JIB Member Companies can access financial support towards industry-recognised qualifications through the JIB Skills Development Fund. For more information contact [membership@JIB.org.uk](mailto:membership@JIB.org.uk)

## CSCS SMART CHECK SUCCESS

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Alliance saw record numbers of cards checked using CSCS Smart Check in 2025. For ECS, this represented more than 75,000 unique individuals having their ECS cards checked during the year – a huge increase on the 18,000 in 2024. Keeping your ECS card in date allows you to digitally demonstrate competence, knowledge and skills, which enables quick site access. More than 50 million cards have now been checked since the introduction of smart technology solutions.

The CSCS Alliance serves as the collective voice of the 37 card schemes which carry the CSCS logo. It ensures that over 2.3 million UK construction workers are qualified for their roles, promotes best practices, strengthens industry collaboration, and serves as a single point of contact for engagement with wider industry developments.

As he steps down, after four years as CSCS Chair, JIB Chief Executive Jay

Parmar reflects on the scheme's achievements:

**"As Chair, I have been proud to help drive progress forward – working closely with policymakers, regulators, and government to ensure the Alliance plays a central role in the national renewal agenda."**

During this time CSCS has enhanced collaboration across the 37 card schemes which carry the CSCS logo. JIB & ECS COO, Andy Reakes oversaw the introduction of CSCS Smart Check in 2022, which was a major leap forward for competence and safety with. This digital verification API improved the construction industry's card checking procedures and site safety.

Marion Marsland takes over in the role of Chair from 1 December 2025. She brings more than 40 years' experience in the thermal insulation sector, including leadership roles at the Thermal Insulation Contractors Association (TICA).

 **ECS CARDS CHECKED PER MONTH > 300,000**

**75,000 UNIQUE ECS CARDHOLDERS CHECKED IN 2025**



(up from 18k last year)

ECS provides robust, independently verified evidence of electrical competence, including identity, qualifications, health & safety, and ongoing industry assurance. ECS is referenced within Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) Qualifications Guide, and is accepted by bodies such as NICEIC and NAPIT as supporting evidence when assessing applicants for scheme registration, helping to expedite processes and showcasing the value of ECS.

## AUDIOVISUAL OCCUPATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The JIB, through the ECS has been working for many years with Industry Working Groups to develop occupational frameworks. The aim is to bring consistency and clarity to competency standards, aligned with Building Safety Regulations. This led to an overarching framework for the Audiovisual, Broadcast Media and Creative Industries early in 2025, which included the introduction of 8 new ECS cards.

The frameworks have been grouped into 3 categories:



Creative Industries



Audiovisual



Broadcast and Media

These remain distinct but share entry-level qualifications in relevant T-Level, BTEC or ABBT Bronze courses.

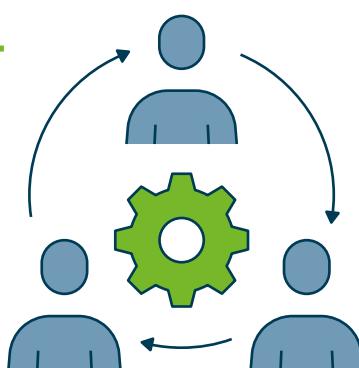
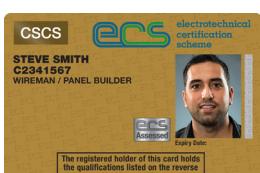
As part of this collaborative effort, ECS worked with the Trailblazer Group for the Broadcast and Media Systems Technical Operator apprenticeship standard – one of the routes to this ECS Gold card. This Trailblazer group included representatives from ITV, the BBC, Arqiva, Amazon, Blackpool and Fylde College, Gravity Media, and the National Film and Television School (NFTS).



## RAISING STANDARDS IN POWER DISTRIBUTION AND CONTROL

The drive to raise standards continues with an industry group established in September to focus on Power Distribution and Control. This group is tasked with defining the core and trade-specific competency requirements Panel Builders and Panel Wirings occupations, following the successful development of an EWA route for the sector through the JIB & ECS.

Drafts of competence frameworks, job-role, SKEB (Skills Knowledge, Experience, and Behaviours) statements and assessment and/or qualification requirements are circulated to those who work in power distribution, control systems, panel building or related fields. This presents an opportunity to review current workforce's credentials, CPD



records and ensure that people are ready for any upcoming changes in areas such as revalidation and ongoing learning.

Feedback and industry participation will help ensure that the framework is practical and suitably aligned to real working conditions. Contact Dan Woods, ECS Industry Engagement Manager, at [dan.woods@jib.org.uk](mailto:dan.woods@jib.org.uk) to be included on the group for valuable early insight and make your voice heard.

**80,000 GOLD CARDS**

There are over 80,000 ECS Gold Card holders across all occupations in the UK and more than 50,000 are registered electricians.

For an Installation or Maintenance Electrician the ECS Gold Card signifies that they meet the industry-approved Level 3 standard. It also demonstrates that they:

- Stay up to date with the latest BS 7671 IET Wiring Regulations
- Adhere to a Code of Professional Conduct
- Commit to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation

For clients and employers, this means confidence in hiring professionals with verified skills, knowledge, and ongoing commitment to industry standards.

## EWA ASSESSMENT ROUTES

There are now 8 routes to formal assessment for those with years of experience who have not completed an apprenticeship or NVQ Level 3. Options are available in these specialisms:

- Building Controls Engineer
- Domestic Electrician
- FESS Technician
- Installation Electrician
- Network Infrastructure
- Panel Builder

Find out more [here](#).