



## TWI Certification Ltd (TWI CL) COVID-19 Policy

**Start date:** 19 March 2020

**End date:** 31 December 2021.

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In light of the current circumstances, and as of Thursday 19 March 2020, TWI CL has moved to social distancing and working from home strategy, as well as restricting travel to business critical only. These actions are mirrored across the world in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result, all personnel examinations have been cancelled.

This is an unprecedented event in the history of TWI CL and the CSWIP brand, and as such, extraordinary measures have had to be introduced to maintain our candidate's effective certification.

In response to the current global situation TWI CL have, in line with UKAS Technical Policy Statement TPS 62<sup>1</sup> and TPS 73<sup>2</sup>, and the International Accreditation Forum's (IAF) IAF ID 3 procedure<sup>3</sup>, sought approval to deviate from normal procedures for affected certificates, in line with other Certification Bodies.

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### **Personnel Certification CSWIP and BGAS-CSWIP**

The extraordinary measures have been outlined within this section are applicable only to those whose **certificates expire** at the 10 year point or **examination dates** occur between **01 March 2020 and 31 December 2021**. The situation will be continuously monitored and these dates will be reviewed and revised as appropriate.

**Group A Certification Schemes:** Welding: Inspectors, Supervisors, Instructors, Examiners, Quality Control Coordinators, Technical Representatives; Review of Welding Procedures; Heat Treatment; NDT: Inspectors, Operators and Interpreters; BGAS-CSWIP, Plant Inspectors; Cathodic Protection; Visual Inspectors for Upstream Oil and Gas; Protective Coatings; Plastic Welding Inspectors; Blasting and Painting Operatives.

1. Candidates, whose CSWIP or BGAS-CSWIP certificates are at the ten-year recertification point, are able to apply for a six (6) month extension to their certificates validity. Please contact TWI CL via [twicertification@twi.co.uk](mailto:twicertification@twi.co.uk) to request the relevant form and be advised of the process, you will be informed by email if your application has been successful.
2. Candidates, who are due to sit their retest examinations, may apply for a six (6) months extension to take their tests. Please contact TWI CL via [twicertification@twi.co.uk](mailto:twicertification@twi.co.uk) to request

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ukas.com/download/publications/Technical%20Policy%20Statements/TPS%2062%20-%20Edition%202%20-%20August%202016.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ukas.com/wp-content/uploads/schedule\\_uploads/759164/TPS-73-UKAS-Policy-on-Assessment-During-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf](https://www.ukas.com/wp-content/uploads/schedule_uploads/759164/TPS-73-UKAS-Policy-on-Assessment-During-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAFID32011\\_Management\\_of\\_Extraordinary\\_Events\\_or\\_Circumstances.pdf](https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAFID32011_Management_of_Extraordinary_Events_or_Circumstances.pdf)

an extension. Please note that if successful in the retest, the expiry date of the certificate will be five years from the date of the original examination for initial candidates.

3. Candidates due to sit their second retest on their CSWIP Welding Inspector may apply for three (3) more months to take their test. Please contact TWI CL via [twicertification@twi.co.uk](mailto:twicertification@twi.co.uk) to request an extension.

**Group B Certification Schemes:** Underwater Inspector 3.1U; Underwater Inspector 3.2U; ROV Inspector 3.3U; Underwater Inspection Controller 3.4U

1. Certificates due to expire between the aforementioned dates may have their validity extended for six (6) months and may be allowed up to six (6) months extra time to sit their recertification examination. Please contact TWI CL via [twicertification@twi.co.uk](mailto:twicertification@twi.co.uk) to request the relevant form and be advised of the process, you will be informed by email if your application has been successful.

**Group C Certification Schemes:** Plastic Welders; Installers and Supervisors: FRP Plate Strengthening of Concrete Structures, Composite Patch Repair for Marine and Civil Structures

1. Candidates, whose certificates are at the four-year recertification point, are able to apply for a six (6) month extension to their certificates validity. Please contact TWI CL via [twicertification@twi.co.uk](mailto:twicertification@twi.co.uk) to request the relevant form and be advised of the process, you will be informed by email if your application has been successful.

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### **Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Card**

As per the temporary measures put in place by CSCS<sup>4</sup> TWI CL is asking industry to support the following measures in regards to CSWIP issued CSCS cards:

1. Employers and those responsible for site access and card checking procedures to use their discretion towards workers whose cards have expired since 01 March 2020 onward. However, a worker must always hold the correct card for the job they do on site.

*CSCS is asking the industry to support their temporary measures until the COVID-19 is brought under control.*

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All other renewals and recertification's, outside the dates provided above, will be processed as per standard operating procedures.

At this stage, we kindly ask all certificate holders for their patience and understanding as we are working with a skeleton staff. We encourage all certificate holders who are due their documentary review to submit at their earliest opportunity (up to six (6) months prior to the certificates expiry) to ensure that their certificates are renewed in time, as these are **NOT** subject to the above extenuating measures.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/covid-19/>

TWI CL would like to reassure all our clients, both UK and overseas, that we are dedicated to maintaining their certification and will continue to work with them, our governing bodies, and HMG to ensure we do this while maintaining the health and safety of our staff, clients and the wider public.