

## **Plant Sector Representative Organisation (PSRO)**

### **Certificating Bodies Standing Sub-Group**

#### **Notes of a meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

A meeting of the Plant Sector Representative Organisation's Certificating Bodies Standing Sub-Group was held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 by Zoom.

#### **In Attendance**

PSRO - Chair

ALLMI

BRITTOp

CMPE

IPAF

LANTRA Awards

NOCN/CPCS

MPQC

RTITB

Qualified Contractors Ltd

#### **Support**

PSRO Secretariat

#### **Apologies**

AITT

#### **Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions.**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everybody and outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on progress with the establishment of the PSRO, and to update the group on other developments, such as the PSRO website development, PSROs involvement with the development of CITB's short duration standards and the development of a national PSRO Eco-operating syllabus.

#### **Item 2 – Update from PSRO Board Meeting**

2.1 The Chair reminded members of the history to the formation of the PSRO. The main driver came through feedback received through the CPA review of certification scheme meetings, held during 2018. There was a strong call for better engagement between employers, training providers, certificating bodies and others involved with plant training and certification. The introduction of the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) requirements directly supported the establishment of a Sector Representative Body (SRO) to act as a single employer voice to guide CLC, CSCS and CITB - in its role as the Standard Setting Body - in agreeing suitable standards and qualifications for the sector.

2.2 An internal governance structure has been put into place, comprising the Board along with the Technical Review and Certificating Bodies groups. Further groups will be established if required and these may be task and finish or other form depending on the need. The important factor was achieving the outcomes required.

### ***New Federation Representation***

2.3 The Chair explained that CECA has now nominated two employer representatives onto the PSRO Board and one onto the Technical Review Group. FPS has nominated a new employer representative to sit on the PSRO Board and to act as a PSRO Ltd Director.

### ***Terms of Reference Review***

2.4 They further explained that it was necessary to review the PSRO Board's Terms of Reference, given they had been in place for two years.

2.5 The Board initially considered that they remain relevant but a few minor amends will be needed. The administrative function of the PSRO will be discussed at the next meeting Board together with The Chair and Vice-Chair positions. CPA indicated that they would consider continuing to provide the administration should none of the other participating organisations wish to take it on.

### ***Limited Company Status***

2.6 The PSRO Secretariat explained that the PSRO is now established as a Private Ltd Company at Companies House. Each member organisation has a nominated Director who sits on the PSRO Board. Establishing the PSRO as a Private Ltd Company helps to demonstrate that it is an independent employer-driven organisation.

### ***PSRO Website***

2.7 The Chair showcased the proposed PSRO website which currently has four pages and will act as the public face of the PSRO. Each of the Certifying Bodies can provide information on their schemes should they wish. Some have taken up the offer and if any others should wish to, they should let the Chair know. **Action: Certification schemes.**

2.8 The Chair further explained that a media release will be developed and then used with an official launch around mid-October. The release will go to members for distribution as well as media outlets such as Construction Index, Construction News and the Vertical Press etc.

### ***CSCS/CLC***

2.9 The PSRO has now established formal relationships with CLC and CSCS. They have all acknowledged the PSRO as being the SRO for construction plant. The involvement with CLC includes looking at the outcomes of the Hackett report and Building Safety Bill, which will ultimately impact on all the industry and its certifying bodies. CSCS looks to the PSRO to provide guidance and recommendations as set out in the CLC Requirements for Partner Card Schemes. CSCS views the PSRO as providing the necessary representation from both the sector and the wider industry.

2.10 the Secretariat explained that CITB and the PSRO have agreed and signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set the protocol for an SRO and SSB working together in advising on various aspects of the CLC Requirements. The MoU sets out the roles and responsibilities of each organisation in relation to the CLC Requirements and the expectations around how they should work together. It also covers the development of the CITB Short Duration Standards project.

### ***National Skills Summit***

2.11 The Chair explained that the notion of an Industry Seminar to discuss progress with skills and carding had been raised and the PSRO board had agreed that this was something it might consider taking on board given its purpose and current position with becoming established and operational. It was now likely to be early in 2023.

2.12 MPQC considered it was a good idea and should be a face-to-face meeting. He would welcome the opportunity to share concern over CITBs ATO auditors not being occupational specific and so not fully understanding about plant. The Chair confirmed that this was a concern shared by the PSRO and CPA and it had been raised with them.

2.13 The Chair invited members to feed in any ideas about the format and content of the summit.

**Action: Certification schemes**

**Item 3 - CITB Short Duration Plant Operations Training Standards and Grant**

3.1 The Chair gave an update on the development of the first tranche of CITB Training Standards for eight categories of plant. These are now due for launch in January 2023. CITB will run a two-tier grant system - one relevant to the first set of training standards that will go live in January 2023 and another for the remaining categories.

3.2 Training providers will need to be CITB ATO approved for its training to be eligible for CITB grant support. The training also needed to lead to a certification scheme card that uses the CSCS logo

3.3 The Chair pointed out that there appeared to be a disparity between the novice and experienced worker grant rates, with there being more incentive for experienced workers. They considered there should be more incentive for novices and this concern had been fed back to CITB and who had said that the implementation, including the grant payment rates, will be reviewed after a six-month period.

3.4 The PSRO had assisted CITB by way of participation on the working groups and the production of the generic technical content and delivery criteria. The latter has been put into the CITB ATO criteria (Annex 6).

3.5 MPQC stated that they had received CITB ATO status. The process had taken three months and it meant their trainer having to get the NEBOSH Construction as NEBOSH General was not acceptable.

**Item 4 - Apprenticeships Update inc. Qualification Wales Plant Operations**

**Qualification Wales**

4.1 The Chair explained that the PSRO had been asked by Qualification Wales to provide support for its newly developed Welsh apprenticeship for plant operators. The new Welsh apprenticeship system will require all post-16 construction learners, including apprentices, to do a 'common' year one broad learning about construction and the built environment. They will then move onto the occupational learning. The plant apprenticeships total qualification time is 3200 hours plus the on-the-job time required.

4.2 The proposed Apprenticeship is broadly comparable to the England Apprenticeship Standard but is pitched at level 3 and not level 2 and states that this could be confusing for employers who may believe that the level 3 has a higher or more in-depth learning content when this is not the case. Irrespective, completion of this apprenticeship will only allow the award of the blue skilled/competent operator 'blue' card. The content of the Wales -based apprenticeship has been derived from CITBs newly developed Occupational Competency Statements (OCS), which appear to be the NOS reformatted. Scotland retains its current model which for plant is at level 2.

4.3 They further explained that the proposal needed the endorsement of the PSRO and following the discussions at the last TRG and board meetings this support had been provided, based on the proviso above.

4.4 The Chair had subsequently noted some technical inaccuracies qualification documentation and logbook and had been fed back to them accordingly for amendment.

### **England Apprenticeship Standard**

4.5 The Chair informed members that the construction plant operative apprenticeship standard for England is being reviewed. The main consideration was adding options for additional items of plant. So, for example substituting a 360 excavator for a 180 as well as adding single specialist items of plant such as concrete pumps. It is likely that there will be six different computations to choose from.

4.6 NOCN asked if the apprenticeship completion certificate will be endorsed to show the type of plant used. The Chair confirmed that it will be and that there are other apprenticeship standards that allow options, and which have endorsed certificates. RTTIB stated they were also aware of this facility being used with other apprenticeships.

### **Item 5 - Eco-operating Training Framework**

5.1 The Chair explained the background to the Eco-operating National framework. Trial courses have been written and are taking place with an awarding organisation and two large plant hirers. Feedback so far has demonstrated that the course should be 2 to 3 hours in duration. This may mean producing a basic course and a more advanced for supervisors and managers. The PSRO are working in partnership with the Supply Chain Sustainability School (SCSS) and is in the process of setting up a small working group to further develop the framework.

### **Item 6 - Open Forum – Other items for discussion**

6.1 RTITB thanked the Chair for all the hard work carried out in organising and running the meeting. They considered the PSRO was a worthy organisation needed to ensure consistency with plant training and assessment. Both MPQC and NOCN agreed with this and offered their thanks.

### **Item 7 - Date of Next Meeting**

7.1. To be arranged. **Action: The Chair**