

STA Installer Training Scheme (ITS)

The STA is pleased to announce a brand-new training scheme for installers of timber frame and Structural Insulated Panels (SIP).

What is ITS?

An online based training scheme with a final examination and certification to prove that you and your workforce are trained in the installation of structural timber systems.

FREE to all installers whose employer is an Installer Member of the STA.

What's this all about then?

For a number of years, the STA has been promoting competence and a trained workforce to distinguish installers of structural timber systems from general carpentry and joinery. This was achieved through the Timber Frame Competency Award Scheme (TFCAS), you may recall the scheme, and indeed many of your installers will be certified to that standard - a standard which still stands.

Structural timber systems are by far the UK's most widely used Modern Method of Construction (MMC) in the UK. Currently, some 50,000 houses a year are built using timber MMC and it's the fastest growing technology with demand driven by sustainability, de-carbonisation of the economy, better quality and faster production.

So, it's only right, as the sector leading MMC build technology that our installers are trained to the highest standard - and can prove it!

What's in it for me?

- ✓ You and your workforce will have access to a dedicated training portal.
- ✓ In the training portal you will find:
 - The brand new and fully updated Installer Training Manual
 - Explainer videos to help you navigate the system
 - Details of how to sit the final examination
 - Access to your certification
- ✓ A new Installer Training Manual that has been completely refreshed and brought up to date, now including the all-important cavity barriers guidance, to ensure that the homes we build are built to the highest standards.
- ✓ Access to the new STA Skills Hub providing information on STA Training, apprenticeships, training providers, funding, qualifications and useful resources.
- ✓ Remember as an installer member you have access to the **members only** area of the STA website, where you can access all sorts of guidance to train your team and ultimately grow your business, such as the latest technical documents.

ITS Training Manual

Fully updated to cover all current safety, fire safety and installation techniques. One book: five sections:

- Health & Safety
- Installation of structural timber systems
- Insulation of roofs
- Installation of cavity barriers
- General construction knowledge

Those new to installation will want to learn and work at their own pace. More experienced members will want to brush up on familiar sections but renew their knowledge of the new cavity barriers information.



Final examination

When the candidate is ready to sit the examination, this is all actioned through the Training Portal.

- Access the training portal via the STA website
- Undertake the mock test (if you like)
- Take the exam, which is 30 questions in no more than 60 minutes
- Questions randomly selected questions generated by the STA's test provider covering all five sections of the training manual.

To pass you must achieve a score of no less than 26 correct questions from 30 (85%).

NOTE: To ensure integrity of the test, the STA website uses AI technology for invigilation purposes. This means things like facial recognition, second person in the frame, looking away from the screen are in place to avoid test misconduct by the candidate.

Next steps

Certificates will be emailed individually to installers who successfully pass – they must retain their certificate and certification ID Number. The certificate is valid for 3 years.

Keep up your annual membership as an **Installer Member**, to allow your workforce to enrol.

As an Installer Member, there's no limit to the number of installers you can enrol.

My installers have TFCAS, what's happening with that?

- ✓ Holders of TFCAS certification or a Letter of Dispensation that is still valid do not have to action the ITS until their TFCAS certificate expires.
- ✓ If your TFCAS certificate or Letter of Dispensation has expired, you have until 31 May 2024 to obtain ITS certification.
- ✓ Manufacturer members will accept valid TFCAS certificates as well as ITS certificates.

What to expect

- ✓ Manufacturer members are being encouraged to check their installer's ITS certification status at the point of induction to a building site (or before).
- ✓ Manufacturer members will wish to ensure that the crews they are putting to work are (as a minimum) 66% ITS certified, i.e. two-thirds of the crew hold an ITS certificate.
- ✓ House builders and contractors are also being encouraged to do the same.

So, keep the certificate and certificate number handy for your induction, you'll need it!

If you have any queries, please contact: Tony Batchelor, Skills Manager, tony.batchelor@structuraltimber.co.uk