



Using UKAS-accredited services has huge advantages for businesses

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the sole national accreditation body recognised by Government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, inspection, testing and calibration services.

Why accreditation?

Businesses need to have confidence in the goods and services that they procure. In essence, UKAS accreditation is a tool for ensuring the technical competence of an organisation to carry out one or more specified tasks, such as certification, inspection, testing or calibration. Many businesses are finding that more and more of their customers want to see evidence that their suppliers are using UKAS-accredited services.

The benefits of UKAS accreditation

By choosing a UKAS-accredited supplier, you can be assured that you are receiving the most appropriate service for your needs. Looking for the UKAS 'symbol' when choosing a supplier can be an invaluable tool in your decision making, allowing you to make an informed choice.

This will help your business to:

- **de-risk your procurement** by taking the guesswork out of choosing an evaluation body and by giving you confidence that you will get the service that best fulfils your requirements;
- **win new business** particularly since the use of accredited services is increasingly a stipulation of specifiers, most notably in the public sector;
- **receive assistance with adopting best practice** since your evaluating body is required to have appropriate knowledge of your business sector;
- **offer market differentiation and leadership** by showing to others credible evidence of good practice;
- **control costs** because accurate testing, calibration and other evaluation services along with the adoption of best practice can limit product failure and down time;
- **help with knowledge transfer and product development** since accredited evaluation bodies can be a good source of impartial advice;
- **facilitate access to international markets** since UKAS-accredited certificates have global recognition;
- **reduce paperwork and increase efficiency** by reducing the necessity to re-audit your business or re-test your products for new markets;
- **demonstrate due diligence** in the event of legal action.

What services are accredited?

Certification

UKAS accredits Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17021: 2006, EN45011 and ISO/IEC 17024 and these bodies will have the right people, technical expertise, management systems and track record to competently audit and certify your business.

If you would like your business certified this can provide you with written assurance that a product, process, system or person conforms to specified requirements. Quality Management System certification to ISO/IEC 9001:2008 accounts for a large proportion work but there are many other standards that you can be certified against that are equally important; Information Security Management Systems, Environmental Management Systems, IT Service Management Systems, Food Safety Management Systems, Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems, Business Continuity Management Systems, Product Certification and Personnel Certification

Inspection

Typically, inspections will cover product design, products, materials and equipment, installations, plant, processes and services. The internationally-recognised standard for the competence of inspection bodies is ISO/IEC 17020:1998. It is the standard against which UKAS accredits inspection bodies.

Testing and Calibration

Testing is used to demonstrate the meeting of a specification. This may be a customer requirement or legal obligation part of your own product development regime. The internationally-recognised standard for the competence of laboratories is ISO/IEC 17025: 2005.

UKAS' Top Tips

- **Look for the UKAS mark**
To make an informed choice and positive proof of competence look for the UKAS 'symbol'.
- **Download our guide for businesses on how UKAS-accredited services can save you time and money.**
<http://www.ukas.com/media-centre/promotional-material-and-down/brochures.asp>
- **Find UKAS-accredited services on www.ukas.com**
Use our search on the UKAS homepage to look for UKAS-accredited services, or review a full list in the Accredited Bodies section.
- If you want **information on how to apply for accreditation or to download the application forms** please visit:
http://www.ukas.com/about-accreditation/apply-for-accreditation/Apply_for_Accreditation.asp
- For queries and technical information **please contact UKAS Customer Service info@ukas.com or 020 8917 8400.**