

Finding out more

We hope we have proved to you that using a UKAS accredited certification body is the only real solution to certification.



“Businesses that require the services of a conformity assessment body, be it a laboratory, inspection company or certification body, should look first for the National Accreditation Mark.”

Lord Sainsbury

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Science and Innovation

A full list of accredited certification bodies is published on the UKAS website www.ukas.com and is updated monthly. Full details of the scope of certification bodies across each of the five certification areas are included to help you make the right choice.

Alternatively further information on UKAS and its accreditation role can be obtained by calling the UKAS information desk: **+44 (0) 20 8917 8555** or **e-mail info@ukas.com**



Department of Trade and Industry

Why risk it...?

A short introductory guide that explains how **you** can minimise risk by using a UKAS accredited certification body



...use a UKAS Accredited Certification Body www.ukas.com

About 80,000 companies in the UK are certified to ISO 9001

These companies have invested time, effort and resources in the certification process because they recognise its importance as a business tool and appreciate the business benefits that it can bring.

But who can be sure that all the time, energy and costs have been worthwhile...?



It is possible that some companies could discover that, having used a non-UKAS-accredited certification body, the benefits of certification may fall short of their expectations.

In their push towards certification, companies will sometimes be tempted to cut corners and trim costs. They will argue that, at the end of the day, "it's the certificate that counts, not who issued it". For these companies reality can be harsh. They may discover that, despite their newly acquired certification status, they are **still** excluded from tendering for contracts because without UKAS accreditation the competence of their certification body is not known by their prospective customers. They may also find their organisation has become **less** efficient because they are left with a management system that is simply inappropriate to their needs. In short, they could have wasted their money.

So why leave something so important to chance? If **you** are responsible for your company's certification make sure the certification body you select is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS is the **only** accreditation body recognised by government to assess

certification bodies against internationally recognised standards that assure the certification body is fit for purpose. UKAS combines technical knowledge and expertise with commercial impartiality and a requirement to serve the public interest first.

Use a UKAS accredited certification body and your customers will be left in no doubt about the suitability of your certification. Use a non-accredited body and you are open to competitive disadvantage, lost sales and internal inefficiencies. **Dare you take the chance?**

"UKAS accreditation of our activities gives us the credibility and recognition to operate authoritatively in an international arena."

Paul Wright
Product Authentication International

What types of certification?

In the UK there are about 110 UKAS accredited certification bodies, ranging from small specialists to large, internationally recognised organisations employing many hundreds of people. One of these certification bodies will be right for you.



While Quality Management System certification continues to account for the bulk of work undertaken by certification bodies, there are other equally important areas of work, namely Product Certification, Personnel Certification, Information Security Management and Environmental Management.

Many of the UKAS accredited certification bodies specialise in just one area while others cover several. Some of the large organisations may have specialist teams working in all five areas.

“The UKAS ‘tick and crown’ symbolises the independent regulation of certification which provides confidence for the users of certification in an increasingly global marketplace.”

Mike James
LRQA

How to identify an accredited certification body

The very term “certification body” suggests an organisation of stature and standing. It will come as something of a surprise to discover that anybody can set up as a certification body. There are no rules, no regulations, and no minimum standards to comply with. You should therefore be very diligent about how you go about choosing a certification body.

Would you drive a ten-year old car that had not been subject to an MoT check? Of course not. The risks and dangers are obvious. In much the same way, when you appoint a certification body, there are pitfalls if you make the wrong choice. You need to be absolutely sure the organisation has the right people, technical expertise, management systems and track record.

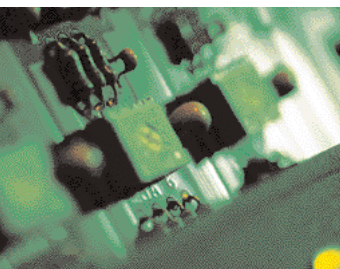
There is only one straightforward way to overcome the risks – use a certification body that has been accredited by UKAS.

A UKAS accredited certification body is permitted to display one of the Royal Crown Marks illustrated here as proof of accreditation. ***They are the Marks you should look for as positive proof of competency.*** They allow you to make an informed choice. They enable you to make a better choice.



Why you should use a UKAS accredited certification body

There are a host of reasons why you should use the services of a UKAS accredited certification body. Here are some of the most important:



Minimise risk

One of the key reasons a company seeks ISO 9001 certification is to increase competitiveness and to secure new orders by demonstrating its capability and fitness for purpose. However, if the certificate has been issued by a non-accredited certification body, the tender may still be rejected. The Ministry of Defence, for instance, when it requires its suppliers to be ISO 9001 certified, prefers that the certification has been undertaken by a certification body accredited by UKAS or a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum Multi-Lateral Agreement.

Save money

When you use a UKAS accredited certification body you are buying into appropriate technical expertise and knowledge. Use a non-accredited certification body and you run the risk of having systems imposed on your company that are inappropriate and not necessarily cost effective. Whereas, an accredited certification body can provide you and your customers with the assurance that your management systems comply with

international standards and in addition there is no risk of having to seek re-certification.

Enhanced reputation

Use a UKAS accredited certification body and you send a strong signal that you are serious about the markets you operate in and will not compromise your company's integrity when it comes to certification. This position will be readily appreciated by your customers and will enhance your reputation.

New opportunities

Certification bodies can bring a wealth of knowledge to a company during the certification process and this can lead to new opportunities and savings that had not been recognised previously.

International recognition

Through the international agreements that UKAS is party to, overseas markets will more readily accept your company if they know you have been certified by a UKAS accredited certification body. It is part of your passport to overseas success.

"UKAS accreditation sends a clear message about the high standards we work to and maintain at WCS."

Bill Slocombe
World Certification Services



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