

UKAS Accreditation

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Growing recognition of UKAS accreditation

Environmental management systems (EMS) are recognised as contributing towards regulatory compliance as well as delivering improved environmental performance. Defra has recently reinforced this message by publicly endorsing the view that UKAS-accredited certification of an EMS is the best aid to companies in the management of their environmental risks, liabilities and legal compliance.

While it isn't a legal requirement to get your environmental management system (EMS) independently certified, it can deliver many benefits. Many businesses are finding that more and more of their customers want to see evidence that their suppliers are taking their environmental responsibilities seriously. This trend was confirmed by independent research carried out by Databuild in 2007. Of the organisations surveyed, 43 per cent of large private sector organisations required that their suppliers use certification from an organisation accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), an increase of 29 per cent since 2004. There is a similar pattern in the public sector with 36 per cent of organisations seeking greater confidence from their suppliers by specifying UKAS-accredited certification.

For businesses who seek to have their EMS certified, whether to demonstrate compliance to potential customers or to realise greater benefit from an EMS, industry leaders such as the CBI, the Federation of Small Businesses, and the Institute of Directors recommend that an EMS should be externally audited to a recognised international or national standard by a Certification Body accredited by UKAS. Practical guidance and advice on setting up an EMS can be found on the Business Link website, the official Government website for providing advice to business, under the Environment and Efficiency section: www.businesslink.gov.uk

UKAS is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess organisations that provide evaluation services. It is a non-profit-distributing organisation and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government through the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Accreditation by UKAS demonstrates the technical

competence, impartiality and performance capability of these businesses, which provides purchaser confidence in their choice of supplier.

Businesses with UKAS accredited certification receive greater recognition from Regulators. For example, under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) legislation, it is easier for businesses to obtain the environmental permits required. They also receive credit under the Operator and Pollution Risk Appraisal (OPRA) scheme. OPRA determines the fees and charges levied on IPPC-regulated sites so businesses with a robust and effective EMS can benefit from reduced costs. Similar recognition is also being given under the Climate Change Agreements. Local authority regulatory regimes also provide benefits to organisations with robust and effective EMSs.

There are many organisations in the UK offering certification, however they do not all have the same level of recognition. Many organisations offer a service that may appear to be cheap and usually offer a package that combines consultancy with certification. Many offer to provide their services on a "no certificate - no fee" basis, but many businesses may find that their certification is not accepted by potential customers.

A full list of UKAS-accredited certification bodies can be found on the UKAS website, www.ukas.com

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Discussion Forums

Forums are open to all IEMA members. Join discussions on a range of EMS and audit topics.

www.iema.net/forums

Defra support for environmental management systems

Every type of organisation, whether a large corporation employing thousands of people, a small company employing just a few people, or a local authority providing essential services, has the potential to play an important role in responding to the environmental challenges of climate change.

The government's Climate Change Bill, currently in Parliament, sets legally binding targets to reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by at least 60 per cent by 2050. It also establishes an independent committee on climate change which will be asked to review the evidence and advise whether our target should be raised to 80 per cent.

As a consequence, every sector of the economy will need to make continuous improvements in performance and reduce their impact on the environment.

Changing patterns of consumption and production indicate that increasingly customers want to know that the organisations they deal with are committed to achieving high levels of performance, that the environmental information they provide



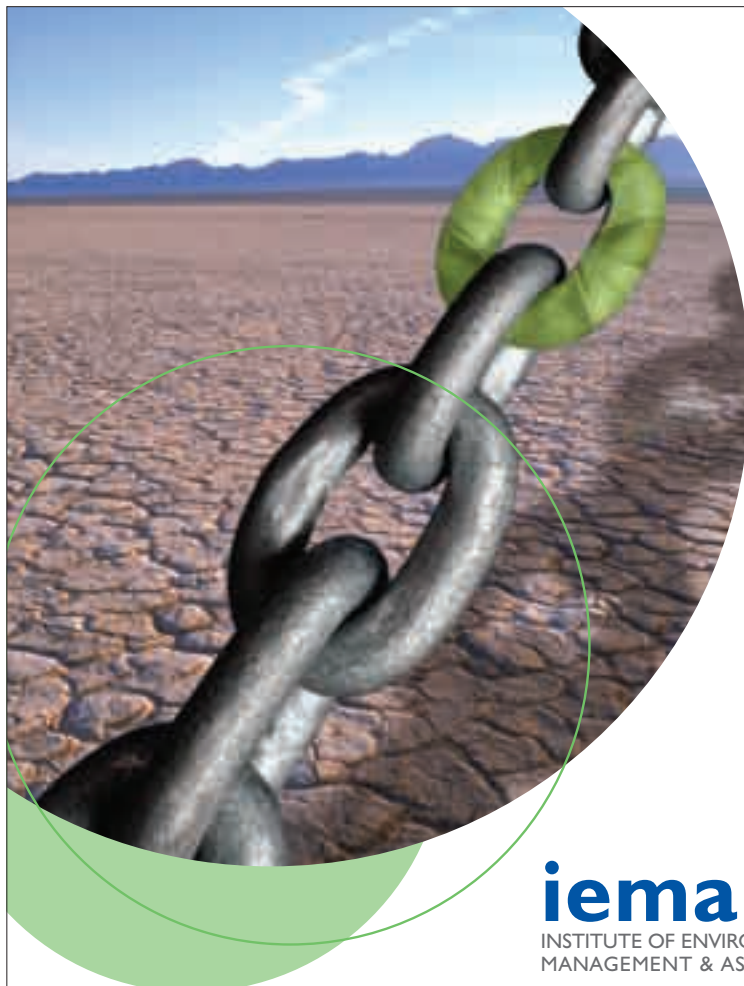
and the statements they make are credible and that the goods and services they purchase are obtained from sustainable sources.

That is why I believe an environmental management system that has been independently certified to a national or international standard, such as ISO 14001 or the EU's Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), can assist in making a real step change in the way environmental issues are managed.

Implementing an environmental management system not only makes good environmental sense but can be good for business as well as helping organisations cut costs, protect existing markets, secure new markets and help meet customer expectations

of accountability and transparency.

Making sure your management system has been checked and properly implemented is very important. Using a third-party assessor accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service can provide customers with additional confidence that operational procedures are robust and have been audited



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according to international and independently agreed guidelines.

Defra is committed to making sure that all organisations are able to make the most out of these opportunities and that they have access to appropriate guidance, and support which can help them put in place an environmental management system. Such a system needs to include support for staff to acquire the right level of skills, professional qualifications and training they need to meet the requirements of a low carbon economy.

Defra also supports the wider use of implementation tools like the British stepwise standard (BS 8555), the European Commission's toolkit for small companies (EMAS Easy), and UKAS accredited inspection schemes such as the IEMA-Acorn scheme which can make implementation easier for smaller organisations and can enhance supply chain management.

I hope businesses will take advantage of the innovative approach offered by EMAS Easy and participate in the scheme when it is launched in the UK this summer.

I would also like to encourage more public sector bodies and local authorities to join the national network of public sector groups which Defra has helped to set up in partnership with local government. This is a very good way of pooling knowledge and skills and enabling public sector bodies to apply good practice to help them put in place an environmental management system.

However just implementing an environmental management system is not enough. Having any kind of management system is a dynamic process that involves everyone in an organisation. Most importantly an environmental management system is all

about continuous improvement. To be really effective it needs to establish commitments to compliance with relevant legislation and be adopted at the right level with full integration across the organisation. An environmental management system must be championed by the commitment of senior managers, stimulate innovation and provide a framework for communicating with employees and customers.

Although the UK is already performing well with some 6,500 UKAS accredited certificates issued for ISO 14001, I think we can do even better. There is real potential for increasing the take up of environmental management systems across all sectors.

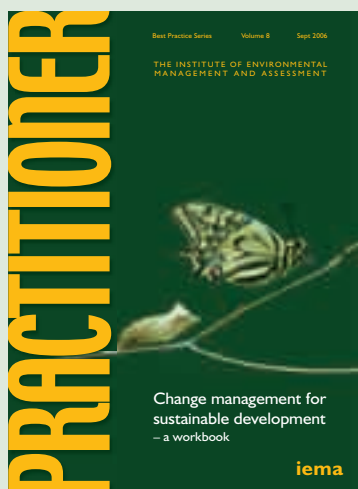
I am encouraged by the commitment of those organisations who have put in place their own tailor-made system. This is an excellent first step but I would also like to see many more organisations go further and get the full benefits of having an accredited certified environmental management system.

Government will do its part to stimulate wider take-up of environmental management systems by aiming to coordinate the promotional efforts of others, identify the potential to develop more incentives, and identify the scope to include standards for environmental management systems in more of our policy making.



*Joan Ruddock
Minister for Climate Change,
Biodiversity and Waste*

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Accrediting the future

Organisations are increasingly relying on an environmental management system (EMS) to identify and manage their environmental aspects, enhance environmental performance and maintain legal compliance. Consequently the number of organisations certified to the EMS standard ISO 14001:2004 is growing at a steady rate.

Intuitively, certification to ISO 14001:2004 should provide good management practice and self-evident benefits to the organisation, its employees, stakeholders and the environment. In practice, safeguards are necessary to ensure integrity and confidence in the value of the EMS certification. It is here that accreditation can add real value to EMS certification and the trust placed in this by businesses, government and regulators.

In the United Kingdom, this role is entrusted to the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS is the sole national accreditation body recognised by the UK Government to assess, against internationally recognised standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services. With this trust comes the responsibility to respond to the changing stakeholder views on accreditation.

A difficult start

Five years ago, any reader of the environmental press could not have failed to notice the criticism made about EMS, accreditation and certification. At this time, such schemes had been around for over 10 years in a number of forms, but their overall purpose had become indistinct and confused. Some criticised that an EMS did not guarantee environmental performance or legal compliance, whilst others pointed out the variations in standards adopted by certification bodies.

Since then, the work of UKAS, the certification industry and stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and IEMA, has greatly improved the clarity and focus on the benefits of accreditation and EMS. UKAS undertook an extensive re-engineering of its own accreditation processes based on stakeholder consultation. Greater attention was given to the assessment of auditor competence, the reporting of environmental performance and legal compliance and the role of the advisory committee within certification bodies. UKAS also increased its awareness campaign, promoting the benefits of

Useful web links:

UKAS,
www.ukas.com
European co-operation for Accreditation,
www.european-accreditation.org
International Accreditation Forum,
www.iaf.nu/
International Standards Organization,
www.iso.org
Defra EMS position statement,
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/pdf/ems.pdf

UKAS-accredited certification to businesses across all industries.

The most important acknowledgement of the benefits of accredited certification has been given through the work of the remas project. This three-year pan-European project provides evidence directly linking EMS with improved environmental performance, which in turn leads to improved regulatory performance. These findings effectively restored confidence in the integrity of UKAS-accredited EMS certification.

Delivering confidence

A vital part of the restoration of confidence in UKAS-accredited EMS came from the re-engineering of the EMS accreditation processes within UKAS. The assessment process is conducted in a more robust and challenging manner, scrutinising the assessment methodologies of EMS certification bodies in greater detail.

The transition from the current accreditation standard ISO / IEC Guide 66:1999(E) to a new International Standard ISO / IEC 17021:2006 places greater emphasis on the impartiality of the certification process and the competence of all certification body personnel, managers, administrators and auditors. Certification bodies face significant work to demonstrate to UKAS that their processes meet the requirements of the standard by the transition deadline of 15 September 2008.

UKAS has recognised that the ability to provide feedback plays an important role in maintaining confidence in the integrity

“UKAS is the sole national accreditation body recognised by the UK Government to... provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.”

of EMS. Consequently, each UKAS-accredited certification body is required to have a complaints procedure and make this information available to its clients. Additionally, EMS certification holders can make customer feedback to UKAS directly and these matters are managed with strict confidentiality.

The International Standard ISO 14001:2004 and the EMAS Regulation (EC No 761 / 2001) are also under revision, which presents an ideal opportunity to direct the purpose of the standards. UKAS has a clear voice in the revision process through its roles on the relevant British Standards Institution Committee and the Forum of Accreditation Bodies established by the European Commission. Other avenues for UKAS to influence the development of accreditation guidance include involvement in the European Cooperation for Accreditation and the International Accreditation Forum. The UKAS EMSAC (Environmental Management Systems Advisory Committee) provides one of the main opportunities for engagement in EMS accreditation. UKAS also continues to work closely with IEMA, Defra and the regulators, such as the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, to enhance the value of accreditation at a government level.

Accrediting tomorrow

There are distinct opportunities for all interested parties to help shape the future direction of accredited certification of EMSs; UKAS can not act alone – greater feedback from EMS certification holders and other stakeholders is welcomed by UKAS to lead to continual improvement in the confidence placed in the accreditation process.

At a national level, Defra has recently revised and strengthened its EMS Position Statement, which is a welcome endorsement of the accreditation and certification processes.

The opportunity is open to incorporate the benefits of accredited EMS certification within the regulatory process. Currently, the Environment Agency gives recognition to UKAS accredited ISO 14001:2004 certification and EMAS registration within the OPRA (Operator Performance and Risk Appraisal) system but there are greater opportunities to harness the environmental and regulatory performance in other areas, especially in the light of the proven cost benefits of the voluntary instrument of EMS compared to traditional regulation.

Conclusion

Since the early warning about the perceived poor performance of accredited EMS certification, great strides have been made to enhance the reputation and value of the accreditation system. Much of this work was vindicated in the remas report, which provides encouragement to UKAS in its efforts to consolidate its experiences into meaningful progress. In moving forward, UKAS cannot act alone. There must also be stakeholder demand for shaping the future particularly from government and regulators.

What is certain is that organisations seeking to implement or maintain certification of their environmental management system (EMS) can rely on the value of UKAS accreditation to enhance certification to ensure that they gain optimum benefits.

*Andrew Marlow
Martyn Cheesbrough
UKAS Assessment Managers*

Acorn: 300 and counting...

The first two months of 2008 was a bumper period for the IEMA's Acorn Scheme with 53 new organisations registering. The number of Acorn inspections undertaken since its inception has now surpassed the 300 mark. The following 53 organisations were registered through Acorn inspection bodies NQA, Global Certification, AJA Registrars and VCA.



- Abbot Mead Vickers BBDO
- Advent Ductwork Systems
- Advent Maintenance Services
- Amber Composites
- Ashleigh Contracts
- Assured Solutions Limited
- Avondale Construction
- Banbridge District Enterprises
- Brendan Clarke Electrical
- Broadcast Media Services
- Central Community Press
- Colourstream Litho Limited
- Cool Repair Scientific UK
- Cooper Parry LLP
- DH Fathers
- Dovehouse Interiors
- Eden Service Provision
- Eximious Furniture
- Fourfront Group
- Hotchkiss
- Gemserve
- James Johnson & Co
- Johnsons of Whixley
- Joseph Gartner & Co UK
- Keltbray
- Key-Personnel Group
- Loughlin Scaffolding Supplies
- Lurgan Golf Club
- Mansfield Electrical Services
- MHI incorporating Fellows Hallatt Architecture
- Michael J Lonsdale Group
- Monaghan Leisure Complex
- Mono Design
- Motor Investigation Agency
- Morgan Contract Furniture
- MTS Cryo Stores UK Ltd
- Next Event
- NT Killingley
- Optima Group
- Permasteelisa UK
- Phase Print
- P J Lilley
- R J Sheen & Co
- P K Decorators
- Rance Booth & Smith LLP
- Ransomwood Estates
- Robert Clarke (Keady)
- Sale Service & Maintenance
- Sovereign Electrical Services
- Stephen Morrison Body and Bumper Repairs
- T Clarke (Midlands)
- T James Commspower
- Whitefields Storage

The search for a contractor or supplier that has demonstrated performance improvements in environmental management is now likely to be more fruitful. The IEMA Acorn register contains further information on all organisations registered on the scheme. Visit www.iema.net/acorn/acorn_register for details. To find out more about how Acorn can help improve your environmental performance, contact Richard Meddings at acorn@iema.net or visit www.iema.net/acorn

EMAS in Kirklees Council

Kirklees Council was one of the first local authorities to achieve UKAS-accredited Eco Management and Audit (EMAS) registration. Ten years after taking the decision to be registered, the council is more committed than ever to maintain its EMAS accreditation. EMAS has proven to be an extremely effective management tool, which has given Kirklees Council numerous benefits over the years.

UKAS accreditation of the EMAS verifier ensured that the Council and its stakeholders had a high level of confidence in the registration process.

Environmental management has become increasingly embedded in the core business delivery at Kirklees Council. In 2007 Kirklees Council launched the Green Ambition. This is a clear statement from the Council to its partners and the residents of Kirklees that it takes the environment and climate change seriously. The Green Ambition has begun to drive change to deliver greater sustainability for Kirklees.

EMAS is the mechanism used to drive this ambition to enable Kirklees "to be a beacon of green living in the UK and at a European level by enabling the council to continue to place its environment work at the forefront of action in the UK and to mainstream sustainability into decision-making."

Before the introduction of EMAS, the authority had made no corporate provision to ensure legal compliance. To overcome this, the authority completed a review of each department in order to identify applicable legislation.

A legal register was compiled to make this more user friendly. Kirklees worked with Groundwork Blackburn to develop a legal CD which explains the purpose of the legislation, how to comply and to which departments it is applicable.

This tool is now available to all local authorities for a small fee and it is updated every six months. It helps to evaluate environmental legal compliance and helps local authorities achieve certification to an environmental management system.

The legal register has enabled the Council to be prepared for forthcoming legal and other requirements, eg The Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' (published in October 2006), which sets out the new performance framework for local government. One of the key elements is to plan and adapt accordingly.

Our UKAS-accredited EMAS registration enhanced a robust internal auditing methodology which enabled the Council to sign up to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme. The successful verification of emissions trading data over the past five years provided funding of £53,049 from Defra. This was used to continue the work of reducing both energy and carbon dioxide emissions throughout the Council. Now the Council has systems in place to set a baseline to report on carbon for the Carbon Reduction Commitment in 2010.

The Council is in the process of establishing climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives and targets at a departmental level to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions. Performance against these targets will be monitored on an annual basis through the EMAS system.

In 2006 the Council was awarded funding from Defra to set up a network to share its knowledge and experience of environmental management systems with other local authorities in England. The network now covers all government office regions and is open to all public sector bodies, including local authorities, public transport organisations, government offices, regional development agencies, the NHS, the fire service and the police. UKAS has used the network to communicate the value of accredited certification.

There is an annual networking event, "Environmental Management and Performance Measurement – Raining Our Game", on Tuesday 8 July 2008 at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster. This is a joint learning and networking event for practitioners in central and local government and other public sector bodies.

*Adele Wiseman
Kirklees Council*



ems.network@kirklees.gov.uk

*If you are interested in the network or attending the event
contact Adele Wiseman*

IEMA support for EMS

The IEMA has been a long-standing supporter of environmental management systems – significant environmental improvements have been achieved by thousands of organisations around the world through their adoption. The Institute's predecessor bodies were directly involved in the development of both the British Standard BS7750, and subsequently ISO 14001:1996. Technical input to the development of all standards in the ISO 14000 series continues at a national and international level through ongoing engagement in the standards-writing process. In addition, the IEMA is wholly committed to raising the competence and capability of those engaged in EMS certification and accreditation, and supports UKAS through participating in its Environmental Management Systems Advisory Committee (IEMA currently holds the chair). The IEMA is committed to improving its own environmental performance – the Institute's policy is available at www.iema.net/iema

*Martin Baxter
Deputy Chief Executive, IEMA*

Using Certified EMSs in Pilkington

Pilkington Group, a member of the NSG Group since June 2006, is one of the world's largest manufacturers of glass and glazing products for the building and automotive markets, with manufacturing operations in 24 countries on five continents, sales in 130 countries and 36,000 employees worldwide. The combined annual sales of NSG/ Pilkington are around £4 billion, with ownership and interests in 50 float lines on five continents – 6.4 million tonnes of float glass is produced annually, much of it destined for 'environmental' products such as solar control, energy saving or energy generation. Environmental management is an essential and integral part of daily operations. In addition the Group has a history of over a century of manufacture, so not only present and future impacts need to be controlled but the legacy of past operation managed.

Pilkington Automotive's EMS

Systematic environmental assessments and internal environmental audits of production plants commenced in 1995. Typical environmental aspects of glass production are:

- energy consumption – especially of glass bending furnaces;
- water consumption in glass washing machines;
- usage of hazardous materials during printing and encapsulation processes; and
- noise from glass cutting lines and internal and road transports.

Pilkington Automotive is a global business and its customers are global entities. Following accredited certification of individual sites to ISO 14001 in response to both customer requests and internal drivers, Pilkington Automotive launched a harmonisation and standardisation process of the plant related EMS. This resulted in a European corporate ISO 14001 certificate (in 2002), covering 21 sites. The integration of North American sites followed (in 2003), South American sites (in 2004) and Chinese sites (in 2005). Today the Pilkington Automotive Corporate EMS and its ISO 14001 Certificate includes 37 production plants and larger distribution centres, as well as relevant central functions. In 2008 we plan to include plants in Japan and Malaysia. The certification process is managed together with one global certification body – the TÜV SÜD Management Service GmbH, Munich, Germany. TÜV is accredited in Germany by TGA, which operates under an international Multilateral Recognition Agreement with UKAS through the International Accreditation Forum.

The EMS is coordinated by a global EMS Manager – working together with a team of regional and local managers. In order to standardise significant elements of the EMS there are corporate policies and procedures on top of structured EMS documentation. Company Intranet pages, corporate reporting requirements, electronic share platforms, frequent communication and conferences help to co-ordinate the EMS and related improvement initiatives.

The benefits of EMS are related to the systematic monitoring

of significant environmental aspects, legal compliance and continuous improvements through environmental targets and programmes. A corporate global EMS contributes to the effectiveness of environmental management – especially within the environment of a global business with one strategy and one organisation, worldwide.

Pilkington Building Products

The Pilkington Building Products business is a regional entity operating in Europe, North America, South America, and Asia as well as a Solar Glass operation. The Europe Business Line has adopted an integrated 'process-based approach' in the development of what is termed the Continuous Improvement Integrated Management System (CIIMS). CIIMS covers all of the central business functions and local manufacturing operations and sets out the Building Products' organisation, processes and procedures for developing and delivering business strategy and performance. CIIMS covers all business processes and is developed with a 'by us, for us' philosophy that builds on the management system principles laid down by the ISO management system standards. The scope of the management system is 'broad-based' and entirely of our choosing and has corporate accredited certification to ISO9001: 2000 and ISO14001: 2004 by SGS.

Central Environmental Improvement Processes included within CIIMS are:

- operational improvement and planning process – manufacturing improvements including environmental protection;
- EHS continuous improvement process – improvements in environmental and safety performance;
- carbon emissions and verification process – national allocation plans, carbon trading;
- Pilkington innovation process – 'environmentally conscious R&D' in the design and development of new products and processes; and
- new process introduction process – includes environmental requirements in major capital engineering projects.

The central processes are supported and underpinned by the local site based EMS at each of the primary manufacturing operations. Accredited certification supplements internal auditing and improvement and provides a vital 'honesty and improvement check' at periodic intervals.

*Russell Nelson
Quality Systems Manager
Pilkington Building Products Europe
Holger Willmann
Pilkington Automotive
Global EMS Manager
Allen Norris
Director Environment Health and Safety
NSG/Pilkington Group*

UKAS accreditation – a proven solution for environmental protection



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Defra believes that a robust and effective EMS should be externally audited to a recognised international or national standard by a Certification Body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

Defra Positioning Statement April 2008

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has a strong track record of working with government departments, businesses and other agencies across different sectors of the UK economy. UKAS accreditation underpins the validity of testing, inspection, calibration and certification activities including those relating to:

- air, soil and water quality
- the development of renewable energy sources
- environmental management systems
- energy efficiency

Accreditation by UKAS demonstrates the competence, impartiality and performance capability of these evaluators.

UKAS is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.

If you want to find out more about how accreditation might be of assistance in your role, download our information brochure “*Why risk it?*” at www.ukas.com/information_centre/brochures.asp

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