



The United Kingdom Accreditation Service

Who is doing your calibration work?

Are you confident that your goods and services and their component parts are based on measurements taken with correctly calibrated measuring equipment?



If you and your suppliers are ISO 9001:2008 certified but do not have further recognition against technical standards **MAYBE** you should think again.



Why?

ISO 9001:2008 is a generic standard for quality management systems applicable to all organisations irrespective of type, size or product or service provided. It can be applicable to organisations that provide calibration services **but certification against ISO 9001:2008 should not be interpreted to mean that an organisation has demonstrated the technical competence to produce valid and accurate data and results.**

This is because with certification to ISO 9001:2008 the emphasis is on establishing an organisation's compliance with requirements for a quality management system. It does **not** contain technical requirements for personnel and operations. In other words, you do not have assurance that the calibrations are accurate.

Don't worry—help is at hand

There **is** a way to ensure that your organisation adheres to the requirements of its ISO 9001:2008 certification **AND** which also means you can have increased confidence that any calibration carried out on your behalf is done so in a reliably competent, consistent and impartial manner and to the correct degree of accuracy.

Make sure that the organisation doing your calibration work is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for those particular calibrations.



What is ISO/IEC 17025:2005?



The international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 defines what is required of a laboratory in order for it to demonstrate both technical competence of the personnel and the availability of all the technical resources needed to produce reliable data and results for a defined set of tests, measurements or calibrations.

In addition to the technical requirements, there is a **second major component** of this standard which **requires that the management systems of the facility meet the principles of ISO 9001:2008.**



International endorsement of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 as the right choice for your calibration needs.



Three international organisations have collaborated to endorse the importance of choosing organisations **accredited** to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for any calibration work rather than ones **certified** to ISO 9001:2008. The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) have issued a joint communication which states:

*“A laboratory’s fulfilment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 means the laboratory meets both the technical competence requirements and **management system requirements** that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid test results and calibrations. **The management system requirements** in ISO/IEC 17025 (Section 4) are written in language relevant to laboratory operations and meet the principles of ISO 9001:2008 **Quality Management Systems—Requirements** and are aligned with its pertinent requirements.”*

Separate certification (registration) to ISO 9001 is therefore **unnecessary** for calibration activities.

Confused about the difference between accreditation and certification?

Here’s what you need to know:

In this leaflet we refer to both **certification** and **accreditation**. Organisations are certified to ISO 9001:2008 but accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. Why the difference in terminology?

Certification is written assurance by a third party that a product, process

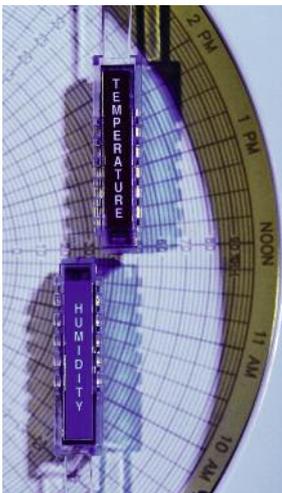
or service conforms to or complies with specified requirements.

Accreditation is the procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks.

For calibration services, you need to ask for an **accredited** laboratory.



Here's what being confident in calibrations can mean for you:



- Accurate measurements and tests carried out in compliance with best practices and accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 can limit product failure and down time and help control manufacturing costs.
- Use of accredited services can be an invaluable tool in your decision-making and risk management. Using an accredited supplier can save time and money.
- Accreditation to internationally-recognised standards can provide a competitive advantage and facilitate access to export markets within the EU and beyond.
- Using an accredited body to carry out an independent evaluation helps demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action.



How to find an organisation to carry out calibrations on your behalf:

The **United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)** is the only organisation recognised by Government to accredit calibration activities in both the private and public sectors against ISO/IEC 17025.

It currently accredits around 360 calibration laboratories to this standard and you can find out who and where these are, and for which calibrations they are accredited, by visiting UKAS: **www.ukas.com**

Alternatively, please contact UKAS in any of the following ways:

By phone: +44 (0)20 8917 8400

This is a general number and enquiries may be routed to particular individuals as appropriate.

In writing to:

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