UKAS Development Services

Accreditation solutions
to deliver confidence —
from design to implementation

Are you looking to set up a scheme that involves:
Acceptance | Accreditation
Acknowledgement | Approval | Authorisation
Certification | Confirmation | Endorsement
Inspection | Ratification | Standards | Testing
Validation | Verification
Accreditation solutions to deliver confidence — from design to implementation

Are you looking for a way to provide assurance or confidence in an activity, product or service? UKAS has an active development programme that supports scheme owners, policy makers, regulators, trade associations, conformity assessment bodies and many other stakeholders design and implement different mechanisms to provide assurance, if you are seeking to:

- Demonstrate competence and impartiality of an organisation to deliver an appropriate output/service
- Drive up quality and consistency and to help provide an environment where an ethos of continuous improvement is the normal
- Improve the competitiveness of UK companies, products or services
- Improve public confidence in markets, products and services
- Establish trust in a new product or technological innovation
- Improve trading opportunities by removing technical barriers to trade

Colour Quality for Printers

UKAS assisted the British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF) in the development of their Colour Quality Management Certification Scheme to ensure that artwork, reprographics, plates and printing processes are managed throughout the production process to exacting colour measurement standards. The scheme applies to any printing production method and process, including outsourced printing, pre-press and proofing.

Brand owners therefore have confidence that their printers will meet their requirements more effectively. The scheme also benefits printers through cost savings in areas such as, less paper waste, reduced ink use, and less re-working.
Forensic Scene of Crime Examination

Accreditation has underpinned quality assurance of forensic science for many years, ensuring confidence in the analysis of samples and results produced in the laboratory. However, the examination and collection of materials from crime scenes was not covered by accreditation.

As a result, UKAS worked with ENFSI and ILAC on the accreditation requirements associated with crime scene activities. It is also working with the Forensic Science Regulator in implementing accreditation for crime scene activities in the UK to ensure that the initial stage in the investigation process, to ensure these are carried out in a competent, impartial and consistent manner, thus providing confidence in the process. Accreditation can cover the forensic activities undertaken at different types of crime scenes. It will also cover activities associated with vehicle collisions and fire scenes in the near future.

Accreditation provides additional confidence in the integrity and chain of custody of the materials being collected and improves confidence in the evidence being presented to the Criminal Justice System.
What is 3rd party evaluation?

This means that an independent or 3rd party organisation is checking whether or not something, such as a product or service, a person, a system, a piece of equipment, or a company, meets specific requirements. These organisations are typically laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, and verification bodies (collectively known as conformity assessment bodies). Our accreditation demonstrates the competence and impartiality of these organisations.

What services can UKAS provide?

Our Development team provides a range of services, from assisting you in defining your needs, to designing a robust assessment approach.

UKAS provides advice, guidance and development solutions on:

- Accreditation Schemes
- Government Initiatives and Approval Schemes
- Industry Standards, Schemes and Codes of Practice
- Directives and Regulations
- Pre-qualification or Procurement pre-evaluation
- Quality Assurance Schemes

Improving high quality diagnostic services

UKAS developed a scheme (IQIPS) in partnership with The Royal College of Physicians (RCP), a number of healthcare professional bodies, and the Department of Health, that improves the quality of service, care and safety for patients undergoing physiological tests, examinations and procedures. The scheme covers audiology, cardiac physiology, gastro-intestinal physiology, neurophysiology, respiratory and sleep physiology, urodynamics and vascular science.

IQIPS is part of a wider family of accreditation schemes covering clinical services that UKAS is involved with. Other schemes cover imaging services, dental practices, point of care testing providers, and medical physics and clinical engineering services.
We will provide:

- Independence, impartiality and integrity in our approach
- Competent project management using recognised tools
- A designated Project Manager
- Agreed terms of reference and project plan
- Agreed milestones and deliverables
- Regular progress reporting
- Final report on completion

When exploring new or emerging areas or schemes and fields of accreditation, we start by assessing the validity of the proposal in order to establish whether:

- there is a genuine need for accreditation and appropriate ownership of the approach being offered (driven by the market and/or government regulation or legislation)
- the approach has been developed by relevant interested parties
- the evaluation criteria meet appropriate technical standards
- the approach is eligible for UKAS accreditation i.e. in the public interest and eligible for international recognition

Improving the financial well-being of banking customers

UKAS collaborated with the Fairbanking Foundation, a not-for-profit charity dedicated to encouraging banking institutions to improve the financial well-being of their customers; to develop a scheme for retail financial products. The scheme formally evidences and makes public the extent to which a banking product helps customers manage their money and reach financial goals.

UKAS accreditation provides the scheme with validity and credibility – as perceived by both the banking community and ultimately the customer. The scheme covers current accounts, savings accounts, loans, mortgages and credit cards.

Helping Business better manage the lifecycle of their assets

UKAS developed the accreditation of Asset Management Systems certification to ISO 55001. The standard provides a framework for an asset management system that supports businesses to proactively manage the lifecycle of assets from acquisition to decommissioning.

UKAS worked with the certification body community to carry out a pilot scheme to assess the competence, impartiality and performance capability of applicant organisations. Following the launch of the scheme, many businesses are now managing the value of their assets by having accredited certification to ISO 55001.
Why Work with UKAS?

As the UK’s national accreditation body, we have a history of providing assessment services for over 50 years that have delivered confidence to Government and the business community. We are recognised by government, to assess and accredit against agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services. Accreditation demonstrates the competence, impartiality and performance capability of these organisations.

We have a proven track record of delivering accreditation for conformity assessment programmes on behalf of a number of Government departments and agencies, trade associations, and professional bodies. We are working on a number of projects which are currently being developed for implementation in areas ranging from environmental assurance, agri-food, finance, energy, construction and cyber-security.

Delivering confidence in the third sector

UKAS engaged with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), a membership body that champions the voluntary sector, to progress towards accredited status for the delivery of their ‘Trusted Charity’ scheme. The scheme offers voluntary organisations recognition of their commitment to quality assurance and continuous improvement thus providing confidence to their commissioners, funders, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.
What will it cost?

When we are asked to develop new areas of accreditation, we usually seek to recover the development cost from the party sponsoring the proposal. The cost of accreditation development projects varies considerably depending on the size and nature of the subject matter. Contact the development team to discuss your needs.

Assuring the quality of Biosolids for recycling

Approximately 12 million tonnes of wastewater are processed each day in the UK, equivalent to 140 tonnes per second. The regulatory and best practice requirements for the treatment and recycling of sewage sludge to agricultural land are referenced in several UK and EU documents, making it difficult for third parties to establish the level of assurance they require.

UKAS worked with the Assured Biosolids Ltd (UK Water Industry) to bring all the control elements into a single, transparent Biosolids Assurance Scheme (BAS) that is audited by a third party certification body to ISO/IEC 17065.

The resultant scheme provides reassurance to food chain stakeholders and the public that BAS Certified Biosolids are safely and sustainably recycled to agricultural land. The financial value to UK agriculture of nutrients in biosolids is around £25 million per annum.

Delivering a safer railway

Following a request from the Department for Transport, (Rail Technical and International Safety), UKAS developed an accreditation scheme for conformity assessment bodies for two EU regulations, under the Railway Safety Directive. This related to an accredited certification programme for organisations carrying out maintenance of freight wagons, and Common Safety Methods (CSM) for risk evaluation and assessment.

The accreditation scheme not only contributes to the safe running of the railway system, they also help to reduce the burden and duplication of controls and/or audits across the rail sector.
Get in touch

If you are interested in using accreditation to underpin the quality of evaluations carried out by conformity assessment bodies, call us on 01784 428 963 or send an email to: developmentenquiries@ukas.com