

UKAS Accreditation



Delivering Confidence in the Provision of Legionella Risk Assessments

A growing number of public sector and large private organisations are recognising the value of accreditation and specifying that suppliers they contract to carry out legionella risk assessments are accredited to ISO 17020, the international standard for organisations carrying out inspection activities. In this way, they can be:

- confident that the organisation has the technical competence to undertake the work in question
- satisfied that the organisation has the resources to do the work
- assured that the assessors are working to suitable codes of conduct to ensure that the risk assessments are carried out impartially and with integrity
- confident that the organisation has an adequate quality system with processes in place to deal with appeals and complaints
- satisfied that safeguards are in place, for example, appropriate liability insurance, in case difficulties arise



Healthy Buildings International (HBI) has found UKAS accreditation for legionella risk assessment to be of great value. It has not only improved and made more consistent the standards to which we undertake risk assessment works, but has also resulted in increased demand for our services.

Since gaining the accreditation HBI has been appointed to undertake some of the most complex and detailed legionella risk assessments ever undertaken in the UK and our clients have had the reassurance of knowing that these works would be undertaken in a manner that is both rigorously assessed and reliably provided to a uniformly high standard.”

Dave Handley, Managing Director,
Healthy Buildings International

*Delivering
Confidence*

Health and Safety Law, Legionella Risk Assessment and ISO/IEC 17020

Under UK Health and Safety Law, employers are required to consider the risks from legionella and take suitable precautions. Selecting an organisation accredited to ISO/IEC 17020 by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to carry out your risk assessment will ensure that you are appointing a competent organisation that will understand and meet your requirements.

ISO/IEC 17020 is an International standard that describes the requirements for inspection activities. Organisations are assessed and accredited to this standard for Legionella Risk Assessment and therefore, must demonstrate compliance with the requirements as detailed in the standard document.



ISO 17020 accreditation was the perfect match allowing us to demonstrate our commitment to high quality and impartial risk assessments, while also reflecting our own internal ethos for ethical business practice. For the past 5 years, UKAS accreditation has driven continual improvement in our risk assessments, allowing us to develop along with ever changing guidance and technologies, which in turn has given our clients assurance and confidence in our services. Accreditation to the ISO 17020 standard continues to bring confidence to our clients in our services and remains a core focus within our risk assessment development.”

Charlie Brain, Senior Consultant,
Water Hygiene Centre

ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation provides an independent and authoritative declaration that the organisation carrying out the risk assessment has the resources, facilities, technical expertise, management systems and controls, to undertake the activity professionally and competently.



As a company specialising in the provision of Legionella risk assessments, we are always looking for methods to ensure our assessments are carried out to the highest standards. UKAS and their guidance documents provide expert advice for water management companies working towards ISO 17020 accreditation. We believe 17020 is a step in the right direction for the control of Legionella, it guarantees that companies who provide assessments are technically competent and impartial.”

Sam Rees, Health & Safety Compliance Officer,
SMS Environmental Ltd

FAQs about ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation for Legionella Risk Assessments

Q1 – What is ISO/IEC 17020?

ISO/IEC 17020 is an International standard which describes the requirements for organisations undertaking inspection activities which include legionella risk assessments. UKAS publication RG9 gives guidance on the application of this standard, for these types of activities.

Q2 – How do I become accredited and how long does it take?

The ‘Route to Accreditation’ which is available on the UKAS website:

<https://www.ukas.com/the-route-to-accreditation/> provides a step-by-step guide to gaining accreditation. The time from application to accreditation depends on your state of readiness, we can advise on this when you apply. Some organisations find a pre-assessment visit beneficial as it can highlight the gaps in your processes and documentation which can help to speed up the accreditation process.

If you would like further details or clarification of the process, do not hesitate to contact us. Application details can be found on our website: <https://www.ukas.com/services/accreditationservices/apply-for-accreditation/>

Q3 – How frequently are companies assessed?

Once accredited, companies are assessed annually. We carry out three surveillance visits and on the fourth year we carry out a full re-assessment.

Q4 – How long does each assessment take?

That will depend on the extent of the activities covered by accreditation, for legionella assessments this is generally around 2 to 4 days.

Q5 – How big is the assessment team?

The team normally comprises of a Lead Assessor and one or more Technical Assessors.

Q6 – What sort of things does the Assessor look for?

The Lead Assessor will assess the management system and associated processes to ensure their compliance with BS EN ISO/IEC 17020 and UKAS processes. The Technical Assessors are all experts in the fields that they assess, and will focus on the technical competence of the staff and associated technical processes.

Q7 – Do UKAS Assessors go on-site?

Yes, in order to assess technical competence, the UKAS Technical Assessor will need to witness the staff carrying out risk assessment activities.

Q8 – Can an accredited company carry out risk assessments and remedial operations?

Yes but there needs to be a separation of the two activities to ensure impartiality and integrity. Most organisations find it fairly easy to achieve this.

continued overleaf



Q9 – What are the benefits of being accredited?

Accreditation provides the following benefits:

- Competitive advantage: accreditation provides independent assurance that your staff are competent. It can set you apart from the competition, and enable you to compete with larger organisations.
- Market access: accreditation is specified by an increasing number of public and private sector organisations. UKAS accreditation is also recognised and accepted globally, therefore opening up opportunities overseas.
- Accreditation can highlight gaps in capability, thereby providing the opportunity for improved organisational efficiency and outputs
- There are a number of insurance brokers and underwriters that recognise accreditation as an important factor in assessing risk, and can therefore offer lower premiums.

UKAS: The National Accreditation Body appointed by Government

As the UK's National Accreditation Body, UKAS is the only body recognised by Government to assess organisations against Internationally recognised standards. It does so across all market sectors by offering a transparent and consistent approach to build business and consumer confidence.

The UKAS accreditation process determines the technical competence and integrity of organisations offering testing, inspection, calibration and certification services.

To find out more about Legionella Risk Assessment and applying for Accreditation, visit <https://www.ukas.com/services/accreditation-services/inspection-body-accreditation/>

Alternatively you can contact:
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