



What is accreditation?

Find out how an accreditation can help you deliver trust, innovation and contribute to a safer, healthier and easier world for people and organisations.



**Standards
make life safer,
healthier and
easier for people,
organisations,
and enterprises
all over the
world.**



What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the formal recognition that an organisation is competent to perform specific processes, activities, or tasks in a reliable credible and accurate manner.

Every aspect of daily life involves, at some level, adherence by someone to voluntary or mandatory standards. It is easy, perhaps, to think what some of these may be—those related to food safety and labelling, for instance, or health and safety at work and in the home, weights and measures or trading standards.

The implementation of many standards may seem less relevant to our immediate existence but will nonetheless impact on our everyday life, such as those related to the structural integrity of building materials, reliability of health care, management systems, financial advice and reporting, or the manufacture of clothing.



**Accreditation
underpins practical
applications of an
increasingly wide
range of activities
across all sectors of
the economy**

The benefits of accreditation

Accreditation brings business benefits and other advantages to many groups of people.

For central and local government

Accreditation (rather than regulation) is the preferred mechanism for ensuring public confidence in the reliability and integrity of activities that impact on health, welfare, security and the environment. This is because accreditation:

- reduces the need for central government and local authorities to employ their own specialist assessment personnel and the associated cost burden;
- offers a single, transparent and repeatable approach.

Accreditation stimulates competition in the marketplace and provides a framework to fuel innovation and creativity.

Accreditation fulfils the requirement to reduce trade barriers and ensures the competitiveness of our exports, as well as the integrity of imports to the UK

For accredited organisations

In a number of areas it is a requirement to obtain accreditation before offering certain services; in others it is a de facto 'licence' to trade in that key purchasers expect it.

Accreditation provides market differentiation and objective proof that an organisation complies with best practice. It is the internationally-recognised system that is used to develop and sustain high standards of performance. It is a winning formula for eligibility to tender and for international trade.

For business

Accreditation is an essential tool for decision-making and risk management.

Organisations can save time and money by selecting an accredited, and therefore competent, supplier.

Accurate measurements and tests carried out in compliance with best practices limit product failure and down time and control manufacturing costs.

Accredited testing and calibration laboratories can be a good source of impartial advice and knowledge transfer leading to product development opportunities.

Accreditation to internationally-recognised standards can provide a competitive advantage and facilitate access to export markets.

Using an accredited body to carry out an independent evaluation helps demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action.

For consumers

Accreditation gives consumers confidence in an increasingly complex, dynamic and global marketplace by ensuring consistently high standards in the quality of products or services purchased.

Why do you need accreditation?

Accreditation delivers confidence in report, certificates and conformity statements. It underpins the quality of results by ensuring their traceability, comparability, validity and commutability.

More and more businesses are voluntarily choosing the accreditation route as they recognise the internal efficiencies that it brings and the opportunities to demonstrate product performance.

Accreditation helps to:



Can you become accredited?

Assessments against recognised standards can be carried out against organisations that:

- Make professional judgement in processes of testing, inspection and certification.
- Implement processes that require highly professional skills crucial for making critical decisions (for example, policy making on trade issues, medical treatment, environmental impact, etc.).
- Assign values to products upon which results are being based (Reference Materials, calibration, Proficiency Testing) and which involves professional judgement and skill.
- Evaluate processes that are critical for customers and stakeholders who do not have the professional knowledge to evaluate safety-critical inspections (for example, in the fields of medical testing, public health, public safety, environmental control, safety assessments, etc).
- Implement processes subject to strong competitive forces that a government or client (as a protector of the people) would like to formally oversee to ensure a 'level playing field'.



Why accredit independent evaluators?

With an increase in specified standards has come a growth in the number of organisations whose business it is to check conformity and compliance with these standards by providing services such as:

- testing
- inspection
- calibration
- certification

These evaluating organisations may be laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies or other types of organisation.

Accreditation is a means of assessing, in the public interest, the technical competence and integrity of the organisations offering these kinds of evaluation services.

An organisation accredited by UKAS can prove its competence, impartiality and sustainable performance, and ensure that everyone can have confidence in the quality of goods and in the provision of services throughout the supply chain.





Delivering Confidence

Take the first step to UKAS accreditation.
Call or email UKAS to find out how.

+44 (0) 1784 429000
info@ukas.com
www.ukas.com

