UKAS Development Services

How can accredited conformity assessment provide confidence for your requirements?
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**Conformity assessment** can take many forms (e.g. testing, inspection, certification). It can be undertaken by those with a user interest, for example a manufacturer, in the object of conformity assessment i.e. particular material, product, installation, process, system, person or body, or by those totally independent, for example a certification body. It could also be a combination of the two. Consequently, the level of ‘confidence’ in that conformity assessment and any resulting declaration of conformity/attestation can vary enormously.

**Accreditation** provides an assurance of the competence, impartiality and consistency of the bodies carrying out the conformity assessment. This document describes some forms of accredited conformity assessment available and the outcome that might be expected from them.

For more details on what conformity assessment is please refer to [http://www.iso.org/sites/cascoregulators/01_0_conformity-assessment-basic-concepts.html](http://www.iso.org/sites/cascoregulators/01_0_conformity-assessment-basic-concepts.html)

**Objects of conformity assessment**

- **Management System (MS)** – Accredited conformity assessment focuses on the effectiveness of the management system in consistently meeting its customer requirements. Accredited management system certification confirms the implementation of the management system for the specific scope.

- **Product/Process/Service** – Accredited conformity assessment confirms (by an independent party) that the output (the product, process or service) meets specified requirements either at a specific point in time (testing and inspection) and/or on an on-going basis (certification).

- **Personnel** – Accredited conformity assessment confirms that a person meets specified competence requirements.

**Types of conformity assessment**

- **Inspection** – Accredited inspection provides confirmation that a product, installation, process or service meets the specification at the time of inspection.

- **Testing** – Accredited testing provides information about a single object at the time of testing.

- **Certification** – Accredited certification provides assurance that a management system, product, service, process or person meets the specification and that processes are in place to ensure continuing compliance.

- **Validation / Verification** – Accredited validation provides assurance on the validity or plausibility of claims for planned activities, whereas accredited verification provides assurance of a claim by verification of historic data.

**Other useful definitions**

- **Scheme** – specified requirements, rules and procedures that are applied to specified objects of conformity assessment.

- **Sector schemes** – Sector-specific requirements based on the requirements of ISO 9001.

NB: UKAS cannot accredit individuals, training or qualifications. Nor can it accredit the certification of other conformity assessment activities (e.g. testing, inspection and certification).
Which **Accreditation Standard** meets your requirements?

**ORGANISATION MANAGEMENT/CONTROL**

- E.g. Quality Environmental Health & Safety
- Are there specific requirements for your sector?
- Continued Confidence (CC) or Snapshot (SS) of Compliance
- Sector scheme – management system (optional)
- ISO 17021-1
  - Not available

**Type of Evaluation:**
- MS Certification
  - Confirmation of compliance of the organisation’s management system.
Which **Accreditation Standard** meets your requirements?

**PRODUCT**

- E.g. Car Seats
- Double Glazing

**Are there specific requirements for your sector?**

**Technical Specification/Scheme**

- Continued Confidence (CC)
- or Snapshot (SS) of Compliance

**Type of Evaluation:**

**ISO/IEC 17065**

Type of Evaluation: Product Certification

Confirmation of compliance of the organisation’s output provided by independent party.

**ISO/IEC 17020**

Type of Evaluation: Inspection

Confirmation of compliance of the organisation’s output provided by independent party.

**ISO/IEC 17025**

Type of Evaluation: Testing

Confirmation of compliance of the organisation’s output provided by independent party.
Which **Accreditation Standard** meets your requirements?

**PROCESS**

- Type of Evaluation: Inspection
  - Confirmation of compliance of the organisation's output provided by independent party.

- Type of Evaluation: Product Certification
  - Confirmation of compliance of the organisation's output provided by independent party.

- ISO/IEC 17065

- ISO/IEC 17020

- E.g. Welding, Dry Cleaning, Farm Food Assurance

- Technical Specification/Scheme

- Are there specific requirements for your sector?

- Continued Confidence (CC) or Snapshot (SS) of Compliance

- Continued Confidence

- Snapshot
Which **Accreditation Standard** meets your requirements?

### SERVICES

- E.g. Charity, Construction, Customer Service Excellence
- Are there specific requirements for your sector?
- Continued Confidence (CC) or Snapshot (SS) of Compliance

### Technical Specification/Scheme

### ISO/IEC 17065

**Type of Evaluation:** Product Certification

Confirmation of compliance of the organisation's output provided by independent party.

### ISO/IEC 17020

**Type of Evaluation:** Inspection

Confirmation of compliance of the organisation's output provided by independent party.
Which **Accreditation Standard** meets your requirements?

**COMPETENT PEOPLE**

- Are there specific requirements for your sector?
- E.g. Gas Fitter, NDT, Financial Planner
- Continued Confidence (CC) or Snapshot (SS) of Compliance

**Technical Specification/Scheme**

**ISO/IEC 17024**

Type of Evaluation: Personnel Certification

Confirmation of the competence of an individual.

**Not available**
Which **Accreditation Standard** meets your requirements?

**VALIDATION/VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS**

- **Type of Evaluation:** Validation
  - The validation of the plausibility of claims for planned activities

- **Type of Evaluation:** Verification
  - The verification of claims about historic data.

**Continued Confidence (CC) or Snapshot (SS) of Compliance**

- **Technical Specification/Scheme**
- **Not available**
- **ISO 17029/ISO 14065**

E.g. greenhouse gas emissions; carbon sequestration; performance claims for new technologies.
Get in touch

If you are a Government official, Scheme Owner, healthcare professional body or conformity assessment body, and you are interested in using accreditation to underpin the quality of evaluations carried out by conformity assessment bodies, call us on 01784 429 012 or send an email to developmentenquiries@ukas.com