



Clarification point on BREXIT Notice to Customers

24th January 2019

Dear Customer,

We recently contacted you with information regarding UKAS Accreditation and BREXIT (full details of the communication are provided below). Within that communication was the following paragraph:

“UKAS has also had assurance that it will not cease to be a member of EA and its MLAs after 29 March 2019 and indeed will be able to retain its membership for at least a further 2 years. This means that there are no technical grounds for UKAS accreditation not to continue to be accepted after Brexit. However, UKAS is aware that EU are issuing technical notices (specifically relating to specific EU sponsored schemes e.g. New Approach Directive Notified Bodies, EMAS, EU ETS and PED) to make provision for a ‘no deal’ scenario and that some of these notices make reference to the non-acceptance of UKAS accreditation after 29 March 2019. UKAS is firmly of the view that UKAS accreditation and UKAS accredited conformity assessment results will be equally valid beyond Brexit and that the same level of confidence can be placed in the results from UKAS accredited conformity assessment bodies as recognised by the retention of its EA membership and signatory status of the MLAs and its status as the UK’s national accreditation body demonstrating compliance with requirements identical to those required by EU Regulation 765/08. There will not be any changes to the requirements, policies or processes used to deliver UKAS accreditation, nor any changes to the organisation or status of UKAS or mutual recognition status at both the European and international levels. UKAS is currently discussing these issues with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the European Commission and is hopeful of further clarification supporting the position stated above.”

It has been highlighted to UKAS that there is a potential for confusion between the ongoing status and recognition of UKAS accreditation in a No Deal BREXIT scenario and the ability of organisations in the UK to perform activities for European regulations and directives.

UKAS recognises that it is the volition of the European Union to decide the status and location of conformity assessment bodies which support EU schemes (such as EMAS and the EU ETS). Nonetheless, such schemes are underpinned by internationally peer-evaluated accreditation processes which ensure mutual recognition of inspection, testing and certification to internationally harmonised standards. As stated in our previous communication UKAS expects to remain part of the European cooperation for Accreditation’s mutual recognition arrangements.

To be clear, UKAS understands that in a No Deal BREXIT scenario:

- UK Government will be unable to appoint notified bodies for EU Directives regardless of the accreditation held by that organisation.



- Organisations legally registered in the United Kingdom will not be able to be appointed as EU Notified Bodies.
- Where EU Regulations or Directives require that the Accreditation Body awarding the accreditation resides in the European Union then UKAS accreditation will not be suitable to support that regulation or directive.

If you have any queries regarding this topic, please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ruddle', is positioned below the text 'Yours Sincerely,'.

Jeff Ruddle

UKAS Strategic Development Director