



Full Text of Original Brexit Communication

11th January 2019

Dear Customer,

As the date of the UK's withdrawal from the EU is rapidly approaching, I wanted to keep you updated on the preparations UKAS has been making and to reassure you that the vast majority of accreditations should be unaffected by Brexit. Following my previous communication to you in October 2018, UKAS has continued to have extensive consultation with customers, stakeholders, Members and our Board to manage priorities for UKAS, our customers and stakeholders during the Brexit process. This letter provides some further updates on progress and activities since October 2018.

Following the triggering of Article 50 on March 29, 2017, UKAS has been working to ensure that those within UK Government dealing with Brexit are aware of the importance of accreditation and conformity assessment to the national economy, and also to trade with the EU and internationally. Regular meetings are being held with Ministers and officials in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU) and the Department for International Trade (DIT). UKAS has also had extensive discussions with the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) to ensure that it can retain its status as full member of EA and a signatory of all the multi-lateral agreements (MLAs) that enable mutual recognition of accreditation. More information about the actions being taken and regular updates on the progress with these discussions is available on the UKAS website.

UKAS is aware that delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the government's top priority. However, like government, we recognise that we must all prepare for every eventuality, including a no deal scenario. As part of the Government's preparations for the eventuality that the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement in place, a draft legal framework for accreditation has been laid before Parliament. The draft Statutory Instrument (SI) confirms the appointment of UKAS as the national accreditation body and is consistent with the requirements of EU Regulation 765/2008 which sets the legal framework for accreditation in the EU.

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.

UKAS understands that the current uncertainty about the outcome of Brexit is causing concern amongst some of our customers. It is recognised that leaving the EU without an agreement being in place could have serious implications for those customers acting as Notified Bodies and those performing in work related to EU regulations such as Emissions Trading. However, the vast majority of customers should be reassured to know that UKAS' status as the National Accreditation Body will continue whatever the outcome and that the national and international recognition of certificates issued by UKAS and UKAS accredited organisations will continue under the multilateral agreements that will continue regardless of the outcome of the withdrawal negotiations.

I hope this letter will help to reassure you of the efforts being made on your behalf and of the likely impact of the different scenarios. If you have any comments or questions please do let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeff Ruddle

UKAS Strategic Development Director