

EA Statement on continuing recognition of UKAS under the EA MLA

The Brexit transition period formally ends on 31st December 2020 meaning that European regulations no longer applies to Great Britain¹, so in this respect it will no longer be bound by Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation in the European Union and UKAS will no longer be recognised by the European Union and EFTA as a National Accreditation Body under the terms of this Regulation.

The European Commission has clearly stated that after the Brexit UKAS accreditation and certificates and reports issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by UKAS will not be recognised with respect to the EU Regulatory system as of 1st January 2021, e.g. regarding Notified Bodies for the purposes of CE Marking, EU Emission Trading System, EU Food and Feed regulations, EU Cybersecurity act, and other EU legislations.

UKAS is a signatory of the EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA) which is a signed agreement between the EA Members whereby the signatories recognize and accept the equivalence of the accreditation systems operated by the signing members, and also the reliability of the conformity assessment results provided by CABs accredited by the signing members.

As signatory to the EA MLA the accreditation system operated by UKAS shall continue to be accepted by the other signatories as equivalent to their own accreditation system and declare, when requested, conformity assessment results (e.g. reports or certificates) issued by CABs accredited by UKAS for the relevant scope to the EA MLA, to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) and to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA) as reliable as those issued by CABs accredited by themselves.

¹ The situation with Northern Ireland is different to the rest of the United Kingdom as a result of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Under this Protocol Northern Ireland shall be regarded as assimilated to an EU Member State and therefore EU Regulations shall continue to apply.