Development services

Accredited conformity assessment

UKAS
A world of confidence
How can accredited conformity assessment provide confidence for your requirements?

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 conformity.

- **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.
Which conformity assessment 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/IEC 17021-1**

Type of evaluation: management system certification

Confirmation of compliance of the organisation's management system.

**Not available**
Which conformity assessment 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**

- **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 conformity assessment standard meets your requirements?

Process

E.g. Welding, dry cleaning, farm food assurance

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 conformity assessment 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

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 conformity assessment standard meets your requirements?

Competent people

- E.g. Gas fitter, NDT, financial planner

Are there specific requirements for your sector?

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

Type of evaluation: personnel certification

ISO/IEC 17024

- Continued Confidence

Not available

- Snapshot

Confirmation of the competence of an individual.
Which conformity assessment standard meets your requirements?

**Validation/Verification of claims**

- **E.g.** Greenhouse gas emission, carbon sequestration, performance claims for new technologies

- Are there specific requirements for your sector?

- **Continued Confidence (CC) or Snapshot (SS) of compliance**

- **Not available**

- **ISO/IEC 17029/ISO 14065**

  - **Type of evaluation:** validation
    - The validation of the plausibility of claims for planned activities.

  - **Type of evaluation:** validation
    - The verification of claims about historic data.
Further information:

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, get in touch with our team to discuss your development enquiry.

Get in touch

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