



Development services

Accredited conformity assessment



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 e.g. 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

Objects of conformity assessment

- + **Management System (MS)** – Accredited conformity assessment focuses on the effectiveness of the management system in consistently meeting its applicable 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.
- + **Claim** – Accredited conformity assessment confirms the reliability of information declared in claims at a specific point in time (Validation / Verification) under object of conformity assessment.



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:

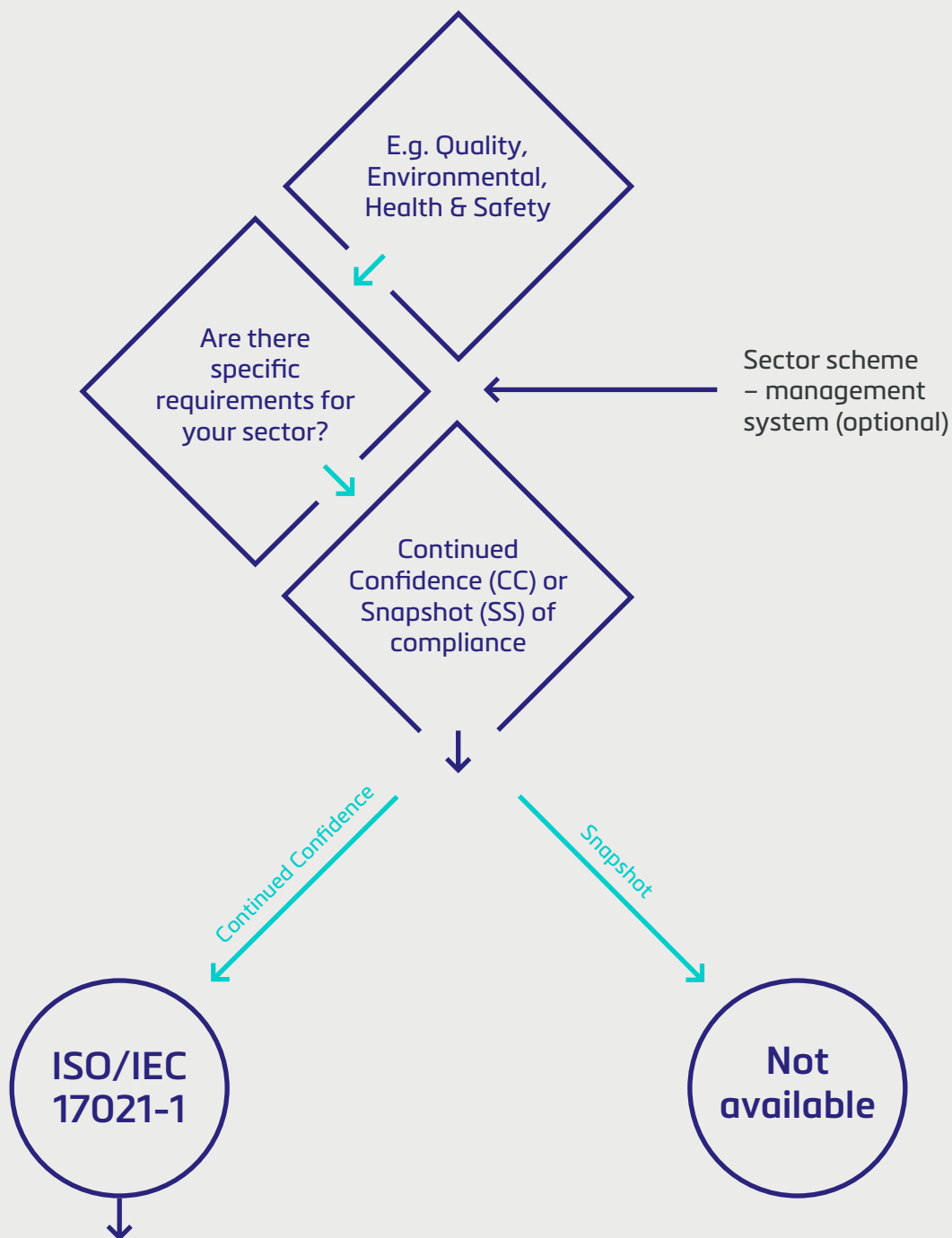
- + **Scheme/Programme** – specified requirements, rules and procedures that are applied to specified objects of conformity assessment.
- + **Sector schemes** – Sector-specific requirements based on the requirements of ISO 9001.

UKAS cannot accredit individuals, training or qualifications. Nor can it accredit the certification of other conformity assessment activities (e.g. testing, inspection, certification and validation/verification).



Which conformity assessment standard meets your requirements?

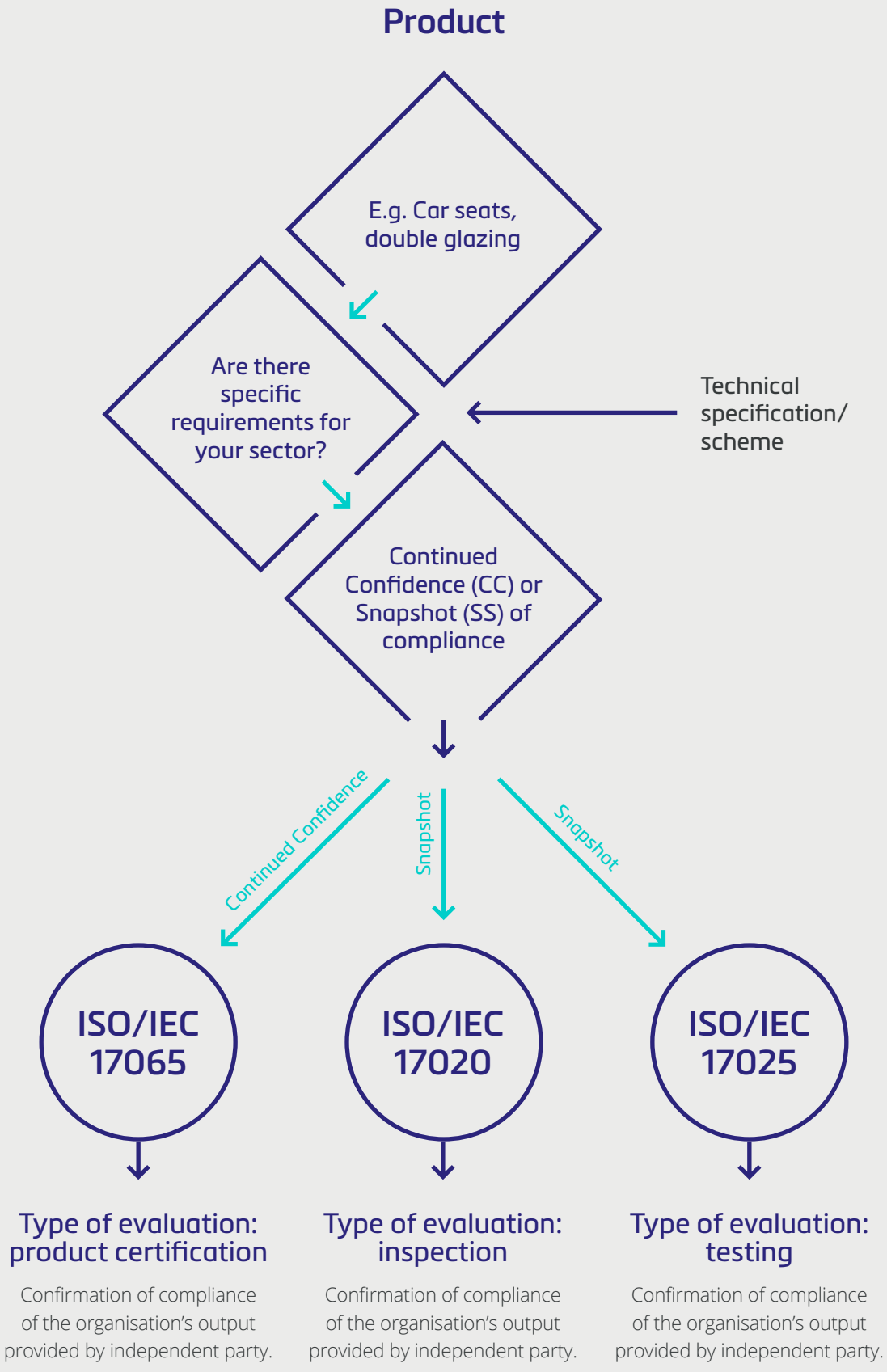
Organisation management/control



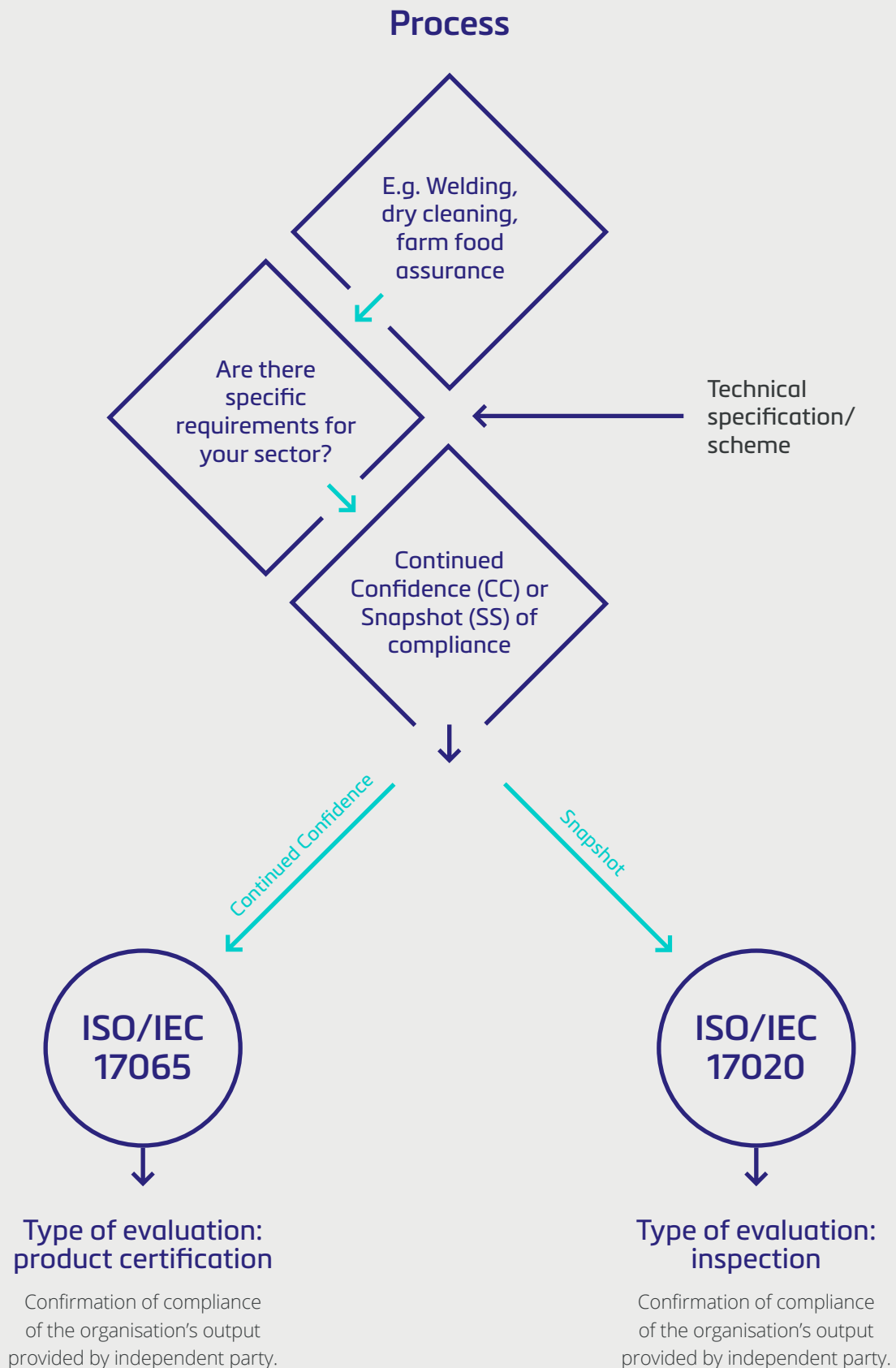
**Type of evaluation:
management system
certification**

Confirmation of compliance
of the organisation's
management system.

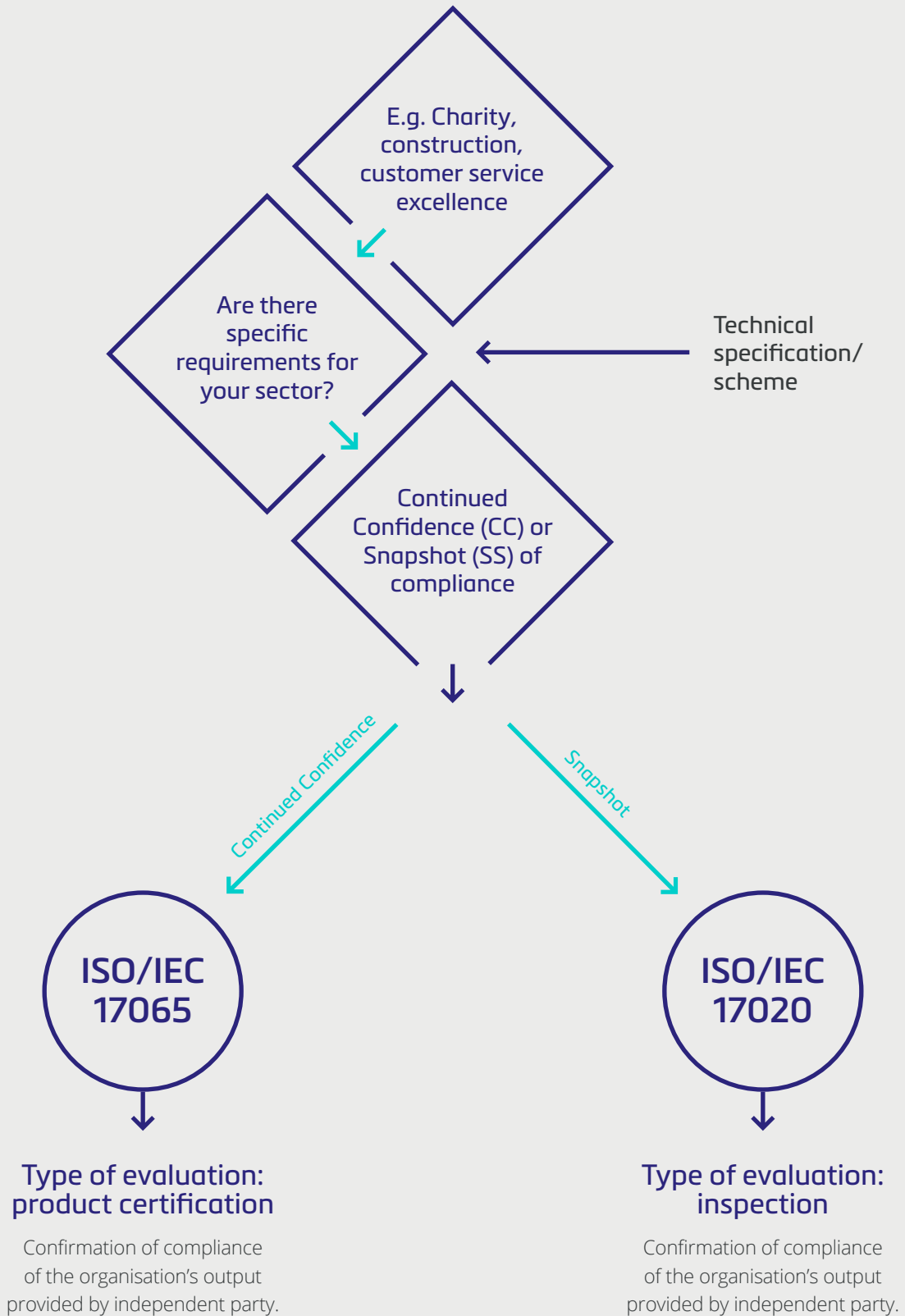




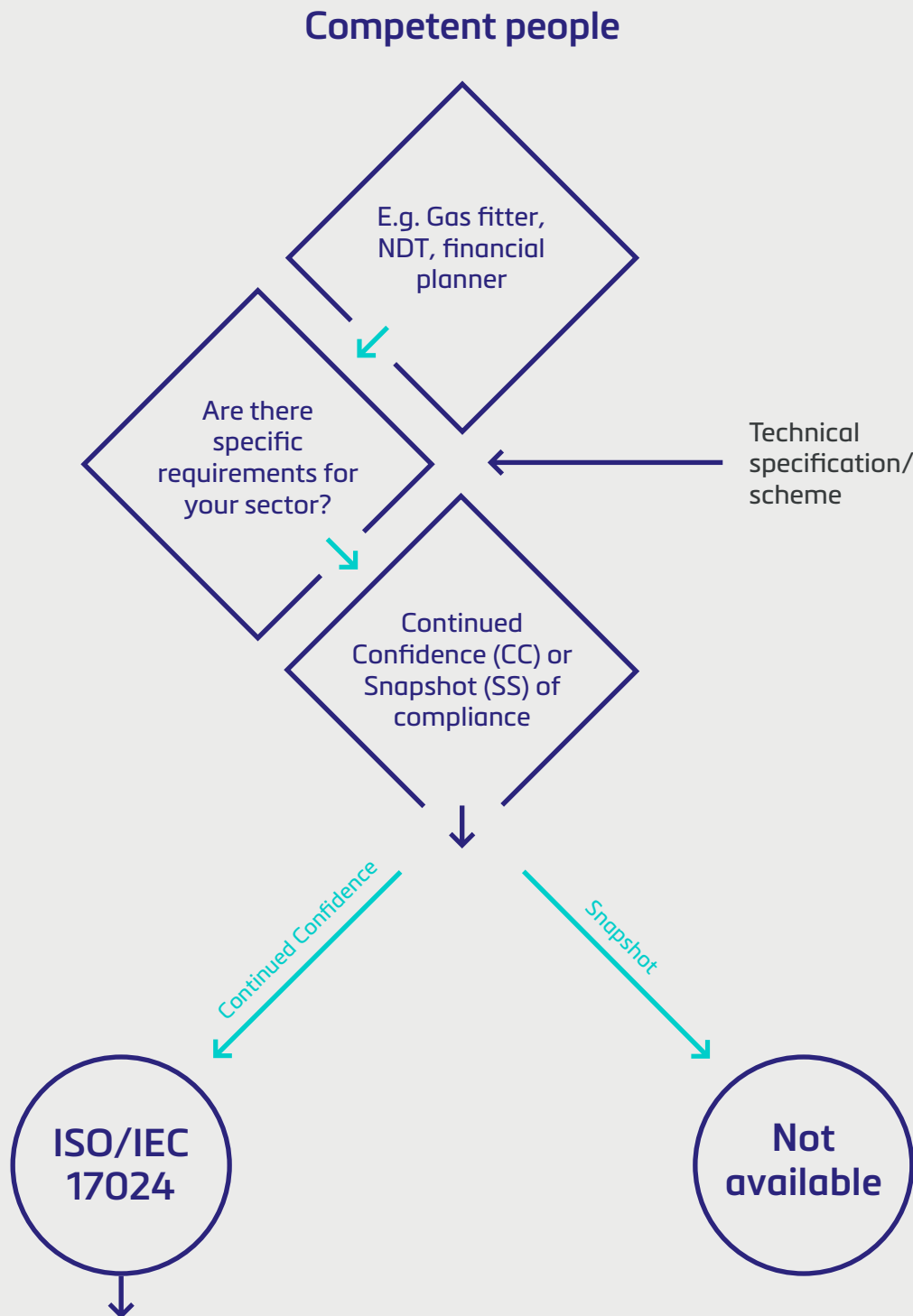
Which conformity assessment standard meets your requirements?



Services



Which conformity assessment standard meets your requirements?

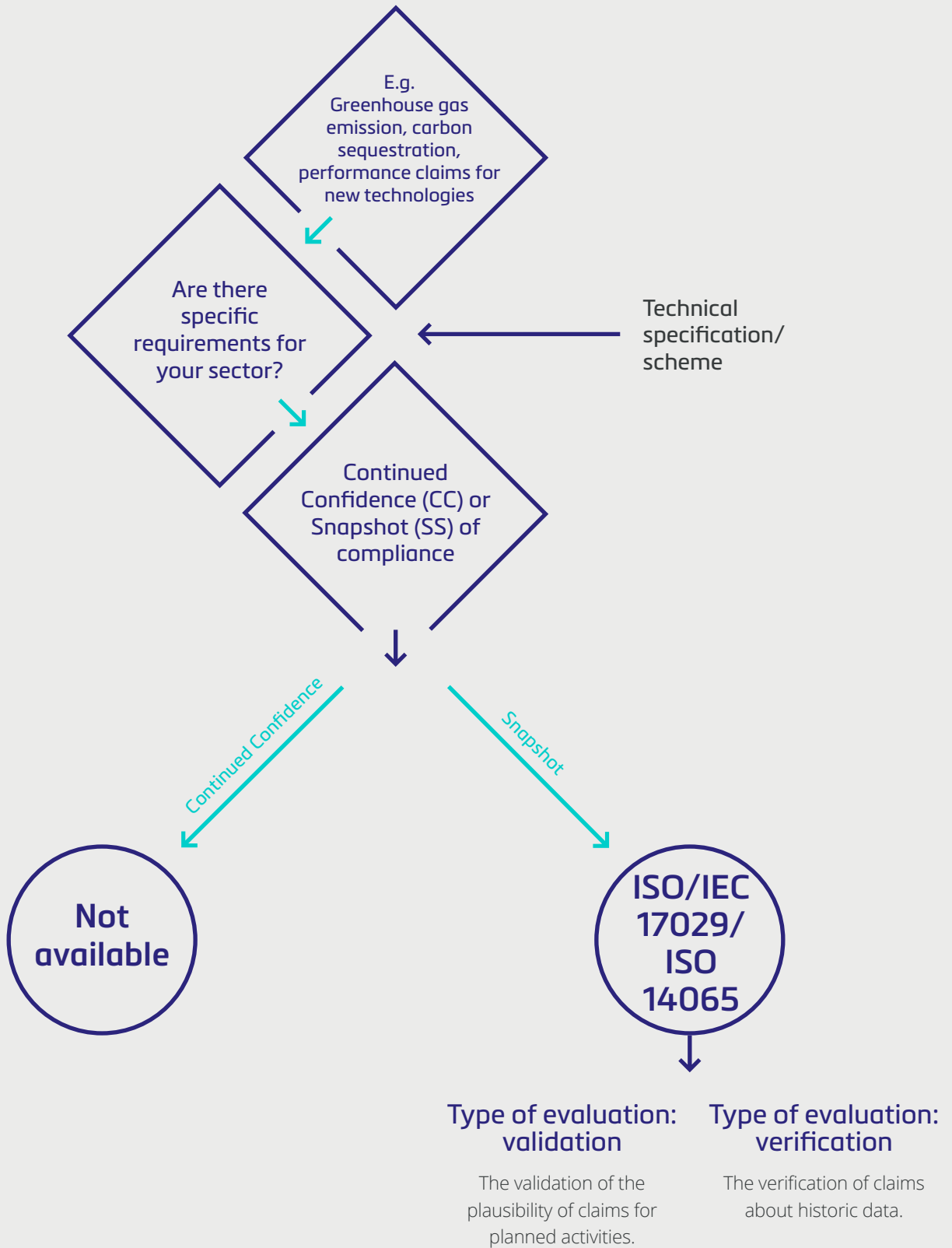


Type of evaluation:
personnel
certification

Confirmation of the competence
of an individual.



Validation/Verification of claims



UKAS Development Services

'Assessment solutions to deliver confidence - from design to implementation'

If you're a scheme owner, a policy maker, a regulator, a trade association, a professional body, a standards maker, conformity assessment body or a purchaser, and you want to set up a scheme that involves quality assurance, we operate a new product development programme to help you meet your needs.



We can help in your design of a conformity assessment scheme by an independent evaluation of you plans or documentation, if you are seeking to:

- + Improve the competitiveness of UK companies, products or services
- + Improve public confidence in markets, products and services
- + Establish trust in a new product or technological innovation
- + Improve trading opportunities by removing technical barriers to trade.

What is independent evaluation?

This means that an independent or 3rd party organisation is checking whether or not something, such as a product, service, a person, a system or a claim meets specified requirements. These organisations are typically laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, validation and verification bodies. Our evaluation will provide evidence of your schemes the eligibility of your scheme/programme to be underpinned by accredited conformity assessment.

What services can UKAS provide?

Our development team provides a range of services, from defining your needs to designing an assessment or accreditation service. You can choose from a range of solutions or let us work with you to develop an approach that suit your specific requirements.

Why work with UKAS?

As the UK's sole national accreditation body, we have a history of providing assessment services for over 50 years that have delivered confidence to Government and the business community. We are recognised and appointed by Government to assess, against agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection, validation/verification and calibration services. Accreditation demonstrates the competence, impartiality and performance capability of these CABs.

We have a proven track record of delivering accredited schemes on behalf of a number of Government departments and agencies, trade associations, and professional bodies. We are currently working on a number of projects which are being developed for implementation in areas ranging from environmental assurance, agri-food, finance, energy, construction and cyber-security.





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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