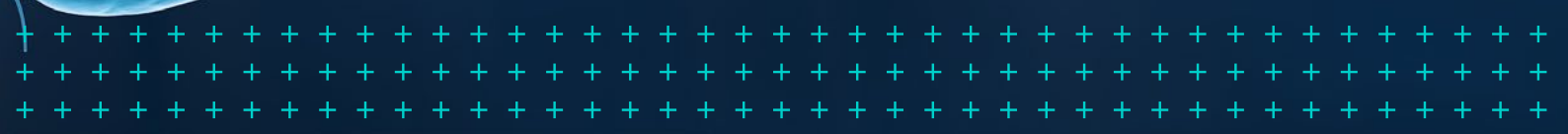




Delivering confidence in the provision of legionella risk assessments



Delivering confidence in the provision of legionella risk assessments

A growing number of public sector and large private organisations are recognising the value of accreditation by specifying that suppliers carrying out legionella risk assessments are accredited to ISO/IEC 17020, the international standard for organisations carrying out inspection activities.

In this way, they can be:

- + Confident the organisation has the technical competence to undertake the work in question
- + Satisfied the organisation has the resources to do the work
- + Assured the assessors are working to suitable codes of conduct to ensure that the risk assessments are carried out impartially and with integrity
- + Confident the organisation has an adequate quality system with processes in place to deal with appeals and complaints
- + Satisfied that safeguards are in place, for example, appropriate liability insurance, in case difficulties arise.

“ UKAS accreditation for legionella risk assessment has been of huge value to Healthy Buildings International (HBI). We were the first company to gain this and we have used the accredited procedures to drive quality throughout our business. This in turn has led to year on year growth of our Legionella Risk Assessment department. Indeed, UKAS accreditation has been requested for works with some of our European partners and has seen HBI teams providing UKAS accredited Risk Assessments to buildings across the continent.

HBI has been appointed to undertake some of the most complex and detailed legionella risk assessments ever undertaken in the UK and our clients have had the reassurance of knowing that these works would be undertaken in a manner that is both rigorously assessed and reliably provided to a uniformly high standard. ”

Mike Jamfrey | Managing Director Healthy Buildings International



Health and Safety Law, legionella risk assessment and ISO/IEC 17020

Under UK Health and Safety Law, employers are required to consider the risks from legionella and take suitable precautions. Selecting an organisation accredited to ISO/IEC 17020 by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to carry out your risk assessment will ensure that you are appointing a competent organisation that will understand and meet your requirements.

ISO/IEC 17020 is an international standard that describes the requirements for inspection activities. Organisations are assessed and accredited to this standard for legionella risk assessment and therefore, must demonstrate compliance with the requirements as detailed in the standard document.

ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation provides an independent and authoritative declaration that the organisation carrying out the risk assessment has the resources, facilities, technical expertise, management systems and controls, to undertake the activity professionally and competently.

“ ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation was the perfect match allowing us to demonstrate our commitment to high quality and impartial risk assessments, while also reflecting our own internal ethos for ethical business practice. For the past 5 years, UKAS accreditation has driven continual improvement in our risk assessments, allowing us to develop along with ever changing guidance and technologies, which in turn has given our clients assurance and confidence in our services. Accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17020 standard continues to bring confidence to our clients in our services and remains a core focus within our risk assessment development. ”

Daniel Pitcher | Managing Director Water Hygiene Centre



FAQs about ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation for legionella risk assessments

Q1 What is ISO/IEC 17020?

ISO/IEC 17020 is an international standard which describes the requirements for organisations undertaking inspection activities which include legionella risk assessments. UKAS publication [RG9](#) gives guidance on the application of this standard, for these types of activities.

Q2 How do I become accredited and how long does it take?

The 'Route to Accreditation' which is available on the UKAS website guide to gaining accreditation. The time from application to accreditation depends on your state of readiness, which we can advise you on when you apply. Some organisations find a pre-assessment visit beneficial as it can highlight the gaps in your processes and documentation which can help to speed up the accreditation process.

If you would like further details or clarification of the process, do not hesitate to contact us. Application details can be found on our [website](#).

Q3 How frequently are companies assessed?

Once accredited, companies are assessed annually. We carry out three surveillance visits and on the fourth year we carry out a full re-assessment.

Q4 How long does each assessment take?

That will depend on the extent of the activities covered by accreditation, for legionella assessments this is generally 2 to 4 days.

Q5 How big is the assessment team?

The team normally comprises of an Assessment Manager and one or more Technical Assessors.

Q6 What sort of things does the Assessment Manager look for?

The Assessment Manager will assess the management system and associated processes to ensure their compliance with ISO/IEC 17020 and UKAS requirements. The Technical Assessors are all experts in their fields and will focus on the technical competence of the staff and associated technical processes.

Q7 Do UKAS Assessment Managers go on-site?

Yes, in order to assess technical competence, the UKAS assessment team will need to witness the staff carrying out risk assessment activities.

Q8 Can an accredited company carry out risk assessments and remedial operations?

Yes but there needs to be a separation of the two activities to ensure impartiality and integrity. Most organisations find it fairly easy to achieve this.

Q9 What are the benefits of being accredited?

Accreditation provides the following benefits:

- + **Competitive advantage:** accreditation provides independent assurance that your staff are competent. It can set you apart from the competition, and enable you to compete with larger organisations.
- + **Market access:** accreditation is specified by an increasing number of public and private sector organisations. UKAS accreditation is also recognised and accepted globally, therefore opening up opportunities overseas.
- + **Enhanced organisational efficiency:** Accreditation can highlight gaps in capability and means of improvement.
- + **Reducing cost:** A number of insurance brokers and underwriters recognise accreditation as an important factor in assessing risk, leading to lower premiums.



UKAS: The National Accreditation Body appointed by Government

As the UK's National Accreditation Body, UKAS is the only body recognised by Government to assess organisations against Internationally recognised standards. It does so across all market sectors by offering a transparent and consistent approach to build business and consumer confidence.

The UKAS accreditation process determines the technical competence and integrity of organisations offering testing, inspection, calibration and certification services.

“We've witnessed increasing demand for accreditation as more and more clients recognise it as a simple indicator that due diligence has been undertaken before awarding a contract to a supplier such as ourselves. However what has been equally encouraging is how, since we first achieved UKAS Accreditation in 2014, the process has remained a driver for quality and continual improvement, both in the documentation we provide and the quality of the assessors we retain and attract.”

John Mee | Risk Assessment Technical Manager | SMS Environmental Ltd

Further information:

To find out more about Legionella Risk Assessment and applying for Accreditation, visit the UKAS [website](#).

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