

Supporting international trade

Confidence in the quality of goods and services bought and sold facilitates international trade.

The mutual acceptance of test results and certificates plays an important part in building and maintaining this confidence. Accreditation from UKAS, the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, underpins reliance on testing, inspection and certification services.

Find out more here





Enabling trade

- + The international recognition of accredited conformity assessment simplifies global supply chains and reduces costs through reducing the need for goods and services to be retested, inspected or certified for each new export market.
- + This recognition is enabled through the signatory status of National Accreditation Bodies, such as UKAS, to the agreements of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and the International Accreditation Forum.
- + Accreditation is referenced in the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement as a means of facilitating international trade.
- + However, national regulations can create trade barriers through requirements for testing or certification. Trade agreements can reduce these barriers by removing the need for duplicative evaluation by building in global mutual recognition of conformity assessment through accreditation.



About UKAS

- UKAS is the UK's National Accreditation Body, tasked with assessing and attesting the competence of organisations that carry out evaluation activities such as testing, inspection and certification.
- + UKAS is a key part of the UK's quality infrastructure that enables the quality, safety and compliance of products and services. Appointed by the UK government, UKAS operates on a not-for-profit basis in the public interest.
 - + The purpose of accreditation is to provide confidence for consumers, purchasers and regulators in the evaluation of the goods and services they use.
 - + Organisations accredited by UKAS range from very small test laboratories to multinational certification bodies.
 - + UKAS accredits some 3000 organisations.



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UKAS A world of confidence

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