



# The Case for Accreditation

## The Issue:



All free **markets depend** on the existence of **trustworthy systems** for the provision of goods and services, and secure **authentication** of both buyers and sellers.”

**Sir Mark Walport**, *Government Chief Scientific Adviser*

If you get a test result from a laboratory, you assume it will be accurate. When using a petrol pump, you expect the same amount of fuel to be delivered every time irrespective of where you fill up. When travelling on trains and roads you do not question if the building materials used will safely meet the tolerances required.

This type of confidence underpins the daily transactions and activities of normal life. Every time we exchange goods and services, we do so in the confident expectation that products and equipment will work safely, services will satisfy our needs, standards will be met and measurements will be consistent and accurate.

What **underpins** these expectations?

What delivers this **trust and confidence**?

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## The Challenge:

**Create** a process to deliver **universal confidence** in management and trading standards

### What is required?

- a) **Buy-in** from all interested parties: government, policy makers, industry and consumers
- b) **A consistent**, deliverable, repeatable and proven process of **conformity**
- c) **Independence** of verification
- d) A multiplier that enables verification to be cascaded for **wide scale delivery**
- e) **Global recognition** for the process

### Does your business and its consultants know if this exists?

If so, are they utilising it in the best interests of regional, national or global policy makers? Are they aware of the benefits it provides to clients and customers?

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## The Solution:

A tool does exist that is **proven** to deliver **universal confidence** in management and trading standards. It is called **accreditation** and is recognised by over **100** economies in the world.

**The United Kingdom Accreditation Service** has been delivering this solution for over 20 years. It accredits a network of organisations who deliver inspection, measurement, certification and calibration services.

UKAS accreditation is **recognised globally** for ensuring the **competence, impartiality** and **performance capability** of the organisations assessed.

*Delivering  
Confidence*

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## Accreditation as part of the Consultant's Toolkit

UKAS operates in over **17 industry sectors**. In each sector it delivers across an average of six areas:



- certification schemes
- inspection programmes standards



- laboratory testing standards
- notified body requirements



- proficiency testing schemes

### Accreditation delivers confidence in standards and services through a process that is:

- objective, transparent and effective;
- highly professional competent assessors and technical experts in all relevant fields;
- uses assessors (and subcontractors) that are reliable, ethical and competent in both accreditation processes and the relevant technical fields.

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## Accreditation applied to core business concerns:

There are **global concerns** identified by businesses across the board as posing **significant threats** to future business growth and success:

### Uncertainty & Brexit

The mechanism behind accreditation is global, with international agreements overlaying national boundaries. This will remain unaffected by Brexit. Accredited schemes deliver certainty for international trading standards.

### Trust

Company leaders are looking to respond to increased social, economic and regulatory pressure to be good global citizens. Accredited schemes use third party verification backed by an internationally recognised compliance process.

### Harnessing talent

Accredited management processes give confidence to employees giving assurance that employer's processes are well designed, properly invested in and supported by management so that they are reliable, repeatable and resilient.

### Regulation

Government regularly acknowledges that accredited standards and schemes driven by industry are an acceptable alternative to legislation and the preferable way of delivering key standards. BEIS recommends that UK businesses, requiring certification services should source these from UKAS accredited certification bodies.

### Delivering innovation

The most innovative developments still need proven processes. Accreditation is a tried and tested formula that is immensely flexible and adaptive. It drives confidence in new products and services.

### Controlling costs

Accreditation drives cost certainty, demonstrates management quality and ensures consistency in performance.

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## Accreditation – Scope of Operation

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy **recommends** that UK businesses requiring certification services to **source** such **services** from certification bodies **accredited by UKAS**.

**The act of accreditation is to recognise and credit an organisation for its ability to deliver goods or services to specified standards.**

UKAS accredits inspection, measurement, certification and calibration organisations that deliver standards in the following industry sectors:

Chemical	Forensic Science	Oil & Gas
Construction	Health & Safety	Product Safety
Energy	Health & Social Care	Security
Engineering	Industrial Manufacturing	Waste Management & Recycling
Environmental	Management Systems	
Facilities Management	Certification	
Food Safety	Metrology	

### Accreditation survey

<b>93%</b>	agree that accreditation provides confidence to their customers and stakeholders
<b>76%</b>	agree that accreditation differentiates them from their competitors
<b>85%</b>	agree that accreditation improves the quality and validity of their work
<b>71%</b>	agree that accreditation helps them to win new or maintain existing business

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## Conclusion

Accreditation is a **simple tool** that operates in many **complex environments**. It is proven to solve the issue of delivering consumers, suppliers, purchasers and specifiers with the assurance that services will be **run efficiently**, goods will **conform**, the working environments will be **safe** and materials **reliable**. It also provides **Government and Regulators** with reliable evidence that **standards** (statutory, regulatory or voluntary) have been **met as set**.

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## Sectorial Concerns Accreditation Addresses

### **Chemistry**

Chemicals are used in a growing number of sectors, from pesticides and petrochemicals, to toys and paint. UKAS accreditation ensures confidence that analysis and determination of the physical parameters of these chemicals is carried out by competent organisations.

### **Construction**

Accredited testing, calibration, inspection and certification provides assurance that construction projects run efficiently, construction sites are safe and reliable materials are used. They also provide Government and Regulators with reliable evidence that completed projects meet regulatory compliance.

### **Energy**

The provision of energy involves complex supply chains and processes, often involving cross-border trade and the transportation and distribution of volatile substances. The commercial development of alternative renewable sources of energy will need to be environmentally-friendly, and demonstrate value in terms of cost, reliability, durability and performance.

### **Engineering**

The Engineering industry is under growing pressure from Government and society to comply with a number of regulations in the field of quality, health and safety and environmental protection.

### **Environment**

The need to measure environmental performance or limit environmental impact is a key focus for many organisations. Accredited testing, calibration, inspection and certification provides assurance about environmental-related claims made. These services also provide Government and Regulators with reliable evidence of compliance.

### **Facilities Management**

Facilities managers are responsible for provide a safe and efficient environment which supports businesses and other types of organisations. Facilities managers use the services of external contractors to provide testing, inspection and certification services to monitor the safety of the built environment.

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## Food Safety

The food industry needs to manage supply chains to ensure traceability, it has to deliver correct labelling and prove the consistency, quality and safety of food preparation and handling all the way from production to consumption.

## Forensic Science

The Forensic Science Regulator's '*Codes of Practice and Conduct*' drives quality standards within forensic science. There needs to be complete confidence in the evidence being presented to the Criminal Justice System with assurance that the most appropriate methodologies and rigour are being applied to the assessment process.

## Health and Safety

Businesses are facing increasing commercial and regulatory pressures to assess and control hazards and risks from their operations. Every area of business life is now being scrutinised to deliver fair but effective risk management. The potential damage to reputation from any incident is a significant business concern. When contracting the services of external contractors to carry out activities that impact on health and safety, UKAS accreditation of testing, inspection and certification activities ensures that businesses are making an informed choice about those suppliers.

## Health Care

The health and social care sector seeks to validate and recognise success, as well as drive up the quality and consistency of service. It wants to share good practice and achieve quality patient outcomes whilst delivering efficiency and productivity. Three UKAS healthcare accreditation schemes are approved for use within the CQC hospital inspection methodology. Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA), the Imaging Services Accreditation Scheme (ISAS), and Physiological Services (IQIPS) are now formally recognised as part of the CQC inspection programme.

## Manufacturing

Manufacturers need to make sure that products are of consistent high quality, comply with regulations and standards, and meet specification. They need to help reduce risk through an often global supply chain. Following production into distribution, manufacturers want to avoid product failures and recalls and get unfettered access to new markets. The pressures of immediate commercial demands need to be counter-balanced by global awareness of risks both to reputation and long term operating efficiency of short term measures.

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## Management

Businesses seek to achieve efficient and effective management for their organisations. They want to ensure training is effective, processes are efficient and systems operate optimally. In the interest of stakeholders, shareholders and staff, businesses need to attract and retain the best staff and invest wisely and sustainably in their development.

## Oil and Gas

The extraction, refining, transportation and measurement of oil, gas, and similar hydrocarbons requires machinery to operate safely and reliably. It needs absolute accuracy in measurement and totally proficient and effective operational systems. The industry works globally and requires a global language of standards and systems to support this.

## Security

Whether protecting company data or the welfare of its employees, security is becoming increasingly important for all organisations.

## Waste Management

The ever increasing demand to reduce the impact of waste on the environment is a key focus for many organisations all of whom require that waste management and its recycling is being effectively managed. Those providing services in this area want to demonstrate to Government and Regulators that Directives are being met and evidence of compliance is reliable. Waste management and recycling services can be evaluated against specified requirements by certification and inspection bodies (collectively known as conformity assessment bodies).



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