



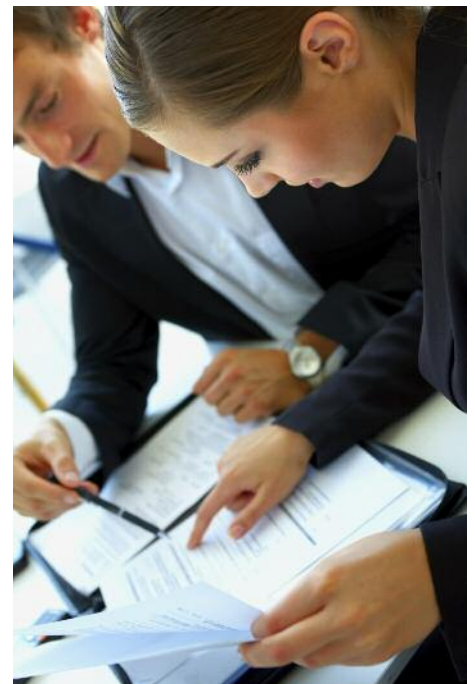
Why leave your certification to chance?

If you are busy running a business, sourcing the right people and organisations to provide your certification can be time consuming and fraught with unknowns.

So why leave something so important to chance? If you are responsible for ensuring your business is certified make sure the certification body you select is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). UKAS is the only accreditation body recognised by government to assess certification bodies against internationally recognised standards that ensure the certification body is fit for purpose. UKAS combines technical knowledge and expertise with commercial impartiality and a requirement to serve the public interest first.

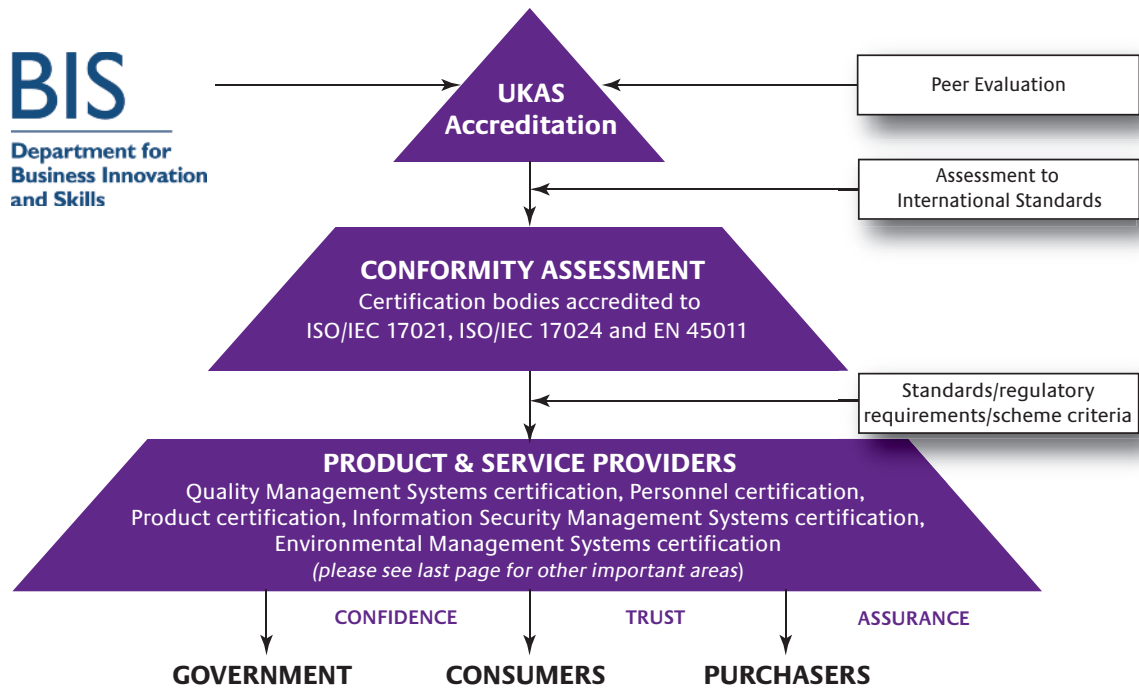
UKAS accreditation provides assurance in the market that UKAS accredited certification bodies operate to recognised standards. UKAS accredited certification bodies are accredited to the international standards ISO/IEC 17021:2011, ISO/IEC 17024:2003 and EN 45011:1998. The accreditation process provides consumers with the confidence that the quality of the service they procure is of a consistently high standard.

UKAS has been formally appointed as the National Accreditation Body for the United Kingdom under EU Regulation (EC) 765/2008. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) works with UKAS to ensure that it operates in the public interest and meets the obligations required by the Regulation.



UKAS market position

A certification body accredited by UKAS has proved that it complies with best practice and is competent to deliver a consistently reliable and impartial service which meets the appropriate, internationally-recognised standard.



“ Certification plays a key role in ensuring that products and services are safe and of a high quality. Using a UKAS accredited certification body assures the organisation that it will get the business benefits it pays for and the confidence gained feeds through into the supply chain. Accreditation from UKAS, the National Accreditation Body, thus makes a vital contribution to the competitiveness of business and commerce in the UK. ”

Rt Hon David Willetts MP

Minister of State for Universities and Science



An independent report commissioned by Defra and completed by researchers at the University of Warwick based on routine farm inspections from animal health showed that assured farms had a much better level of compliance.

The report highlights consumers can rely on the **Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme** a UKAS accredited certification scheme.

Why you should use a UKAS accredited certification body?

By choosing a UKAS accredited certification body, not only can you be assured that you are receiving the **most appropriate service for your needs** but you will also discover that the UKAS 'symbol' on your documentation brings with it **national and international recognition** to your business.



There are a host of reasons why you should use the services of a UKAS accredited certification body. Here are some of the most important:

- **de-risk your procurement** by taking the guesswork out of choosing a certification body and by giving you confidence that you will get the service that best fulfils your requirements;
- **win new business** particularly since the use of accredited services is increasingly a stipulation of specifiers, most notably in the public sector;
- **facilitate access to international markets** since UKAS accredited certificates are recognised throughout the world;
- **help you to identify best practice** since your certification body is required to have appropriate knowledge of your business sector;
- **control costs** with the **help of knowledge transfer** since accredited certification bodies can be a good source of impartial advice;
- **offer market differentiation and leadership** by showing to others credible evidence of good practice;
- **demonstrate due diligence** in the event of legal action;
- **reduce paperwork and increase efficiency** by reducing the necessity to re-audit your business.



An important note to remember: If you are looking for **TECHNICAL COMPETENCE** and the assurance and validity of data then you need to be thinking about UKAS accreditation.



Look for the UKAS symbol

A UKAS accredited certification body is permitted to display one of the national accreditation symbols. This will allow you to make an informed choice.

While **Quality Management System** certification (to ISO 9001) accounts for a large proportion of work undertaken by certification bodies, there are other equally important areas of work, including:

- **Product** certification
- **Personnel** certification
- **Information Security Management Systems** certification (ISO/IEC 27001)
- **Environmental Management Systems** certification (ISO 14001)
- **IT Service Management Systems** certification (ISO/IEC 20000)
- **Food Safety Management Systems** certification (ISO 22000)
- **Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems** certification (BS OHSAS 18001)
- **Business Continuity Management Systems** certification (BS 25999)



A full list of UKAS accredited certification bodies can be found at www.ukas.com

An organisation is only accredited for the activities that are listed on its accreditation schedule and can be found on the UKAS website.

Alternatively contact **UKAS Corporate Communications:**

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*Delivering
Confidence*

BIS

Department for
**Business Innovation
and Skills**

For further information visit www.ukas.com