

## **Don't take the risk** - work with an accredited provider

Anything can be independently audited from products to management systems and organizations. Companies of all sizes invest in independent third party certification, either through choice or as a result of legal or customer requirements. However, not all assessment bodies are the same, and the risks associated with using an unaccredited testing laboratory or certification body are high.

Selecting an assessment business that has been accredited by a recognized accreditation body, such as UKAS in the United Kingdom, shows that they themselves have been assessed against an internationally recognized standard and are competent to evaluate your system, product or service.

## Why get certification?

Organizations have their management systems or products certified by an independent third party for a number of reasons and satisfying customer requirements is one of the most common.

The use of standards and assessment is an efficient way for organizations to gain confidence in the capabilities of critical suppliers. It's not uncommon for customers to specify independent third party certification to standards. It can give them confidence

that an organization has met specific requirements and reduces risk - be it product failure, health and safety, compliance, or risk to company reputation.

The reality is that anybody can come in and provide you with a non-accredited certificate or test report. But how can you and your customers be confident that the evaluation has been performed by a competent, impartial organization? The answer is accreditation.

Accreditation reinforces a third-party assessment body's ability by providing an external badge of its competence. It 'assesses the assessors' and provides an important mechanism for ensuring goods and services certified in the UK will be accepted worldwide without the need for additional re-testing or evaluation.



## The benefits of using an accredited provider

Too many companies run the risk of undermining their long-term success by purchasing certification from organizations that are not accredited. By choosing an accredited provider you can benefit from:

Mutual recognition	Accreditation allows comparison of products and services across countries. By using an accredited testing laboratory or certification body, you are ensuring that your product or services will only need to be tested or assessed once, and that it will be accepted everywhere.
Market access	For companies wishing to export, an accredited audit or test report provides a passport to do so. And accredited testing is vitally important to avoid the time and cost involved in re-testing products. Accredited certification to global management system standards reassures overseas customers and strengthens your credentials with trading partners.
Due diligence	Using an accredited body to carry out an independent evaluation helps demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action.
Confidence	Accredited certificates or test reports provide added assurance to your customers that you follow good practice in your operations, building confidence as you enter into contracts together.
Credibility	Accreditation increases the credibility of certificates and test reports, allowing producers to gain greater commercial benefits from the products and services offered.
Impartiality	The accreditation framework ensures that certifying bodies and testing laboratories are protected from political and commercial influence.

We are an organization that strongly believes in the value of accredited certification and have been independently assessed to gain the following:

- UKAS accreditation in the UK
- Various European accreditations
- Global accreditation by ANAB, the US national accreditation body

These independent assessments ensure we operate at the highest standard of quality and provides assurance that the certificates we issue are both credible and impartial.

Find out more about BSI and our accredited certification and testing services

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