

UKAS accreditation: Supporting UK business in a post-Brexit world





Confidence in the safety and quality of goods and services bought and sold is an essential element of European and international trade. The mutual acceptance of test results and certificates plays an important part in building and maintaining this confidence. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has a key role in ensuring that the organisations carrying out testing, inspection and certification can be relied upon.



- UKAS is the Government appointed National Accreditation Body tasked with assessing and accrediting the competence of organisations that carry out all types of measurement and evaluation activities.
 - UKAS is a BEIS partner organisation and a key part of the UK Quality Infrastructure.
 - The ultimate purpose of accreditation is to provide confidence for consumers, purchasers and regulators in the goods and services they use.
 - UKAS is recognised as one of the leading accreditation bodies worldwide and, via mutual recognition agreements, makes a major contribution to UK trade.
- UKAS accredits over 3000 organisations ranging from very small test laboratories to multinational certification bodies.
 - A recent study showed that accreditation contributes at least £1bn pa to the UK economy.

Supporting European and international trade

- Certificates issued by UKAS and UKAS accredited organisations are recognised across Europe and internationally through UKAS' membership of:
 - European co-operation of Accreditation (EA)
 - International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC)
 - International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- The international recognition of accreditation means that goods and services do not need to be retested, inspected or certified for each new export market.
- Accreditation is referenced as the preferred way of demonstrating the competence of assessment bodies (including notified bodies) in more than 50 EU Directives and Regulations.
- Accreditation is referenced in the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and the mutual recognition of accreditation is an important part of agreements between trading partners.

- There are 189 UK notified bodies, employing 4,500 people, with 20,000 customers and generating £2bn pa.
- It is estimated that 80% of global trade, equivalent to around US\$4 trillion pa, requires some form of conformity assessment (OECD).

Post-Brexit it is vitally important for UK businesses that:

- **UKAS' recognition as the UK National Accreditation Body continues under UK law.**
- **UKAS continues as a member of EA, ILAC and IAF in order to safeguard the European and international recognition of accreditation and accredited services.**
- **They have continued access to UK based notified bodies, or other mutually recognised bodies, to provide conformity assessment required by EU legislation.**
- **Mutual recognition of conformity assessment is factored into any new trade agreement between the UK and the EU.**
- **Accreditation is given due recognition in any new international trade agreements that emerge.**



Different Brexit outcomes would affect the acceptance of products and services in different ways.

	Regulatory		Voluntary		
	Testing and certification	Notified bodies	Testing	Certification of products	Certification of management systems
No recognition as National Accreditation Body	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Continued recognition as National Accreditation Body	Green (UK only)	Red	Green	Green	Green
UK remains in Single market/Customs Union	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
UK/EU trade agreement	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
No UK/EU agreement	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green
UK/3rd country trade agreements	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
No UK/3rd country trade agreements	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green

■ Products, services accepted
 ■ Depends on the agreement reached
 ■ Products, services not accepted



For further information on UKAS
 and the impact of Brexit on accreditation:
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*Delivering
Confidence*