



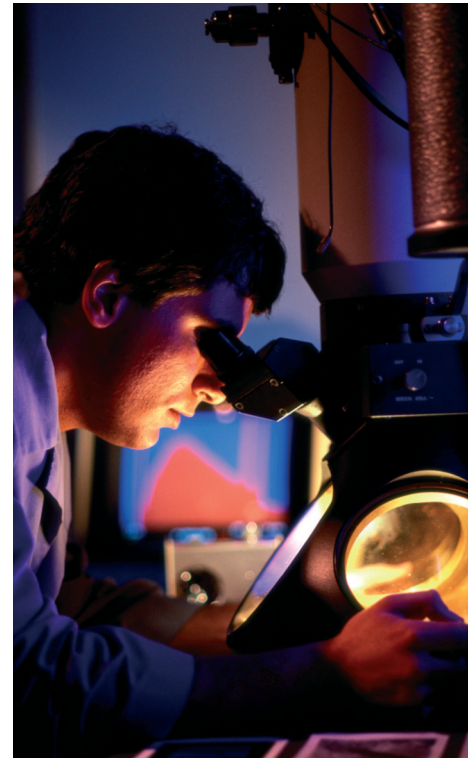
Is the laboratory you commission for your testing technically competent?

Do you commission a laboratory to fulfil your testing needs? Can you be sure that they supply you with accurate and reliable results? If you do, you will want to make sure that the organisation undertaking your testing has the people, facilities, technical expertise, management systems and track records to undertake the work professionally and competently.

The competence of a laboratory you appoint may be crucial to maintaining your reputation as a responsible organisation. It is therefore surprising that organisations are still tempted to use the service of laboratories whose competence has not been confirmed by an independent, authoritative third party.

The United Kingdom Accreditation

Service (UKAS) is the sole accreditation body recognised by Government to assess, against internationally recognised standards, organisations that provide testing services. UKAS combines a depth of technical knowledge and expertise built up over many years with scientific and technical specialists operating across a range of testing activities.

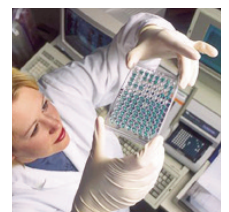
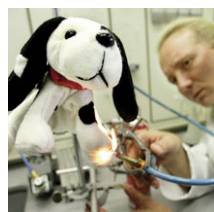
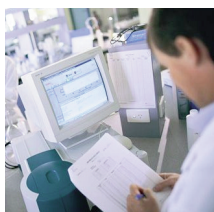


What are your testing needs?

There are over 1,500 UKAS accredited laboratories in the UK in a wide range of sectors such as: Chemicals, Explosives, Food, Forensics, Healthcare, Toys and Water.

UKAS laboratory accreditation uses criteria and procedures specifically to determine technical competence. Laboratory accreditation uses the internationally recognised standard ISO/IEC 17025 to assess factors relevant to a laboratory's ability to produce precise, accurate tests and data including:

- Technical competence of staff
- Validity and appropriateness of test methods
- Suitability and maintenance of test equipment
- Testing environment
- Sampling, handling and transportation of test items
- Quality assurance of test data



Why you should use a UKAS accredited testing laboratory?

There are a host of reasons why you should use a UKAS accredited testing laboratory. Here are some of the most important:

Minimise risk – While risk can never be removed altogether, employing the services of a UKAS accredited laboratory means choosing a technically competent laboratory minimising the risk of producing or supplying a faulty product.

Keep your reputation – Confidence in your product is enhanced if clients know it has been thoroughly evaluated by an independent, competent testing facility. Increasingly customers are relying on independent evidence, rather than simply accepting a supplier's word that the product is fit for purpose.

Reduce costs – Testing of products and materials can be expensive and time consuming, even when they are done correctly the first time. If not done correctly, then the cost and time involved in re-testing can be even

higher if the product has failed to meet specifications or expectations.

Demonstrate credibility – A UKAS accredited laboratory is able to demonstrate a full audit trail for the test, can call upon best practice within its sector and will only use the services of trained and experienced evaluators.

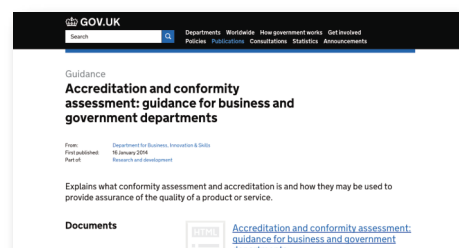
Defend against litigation – The use of a UKAS accredited laboratory is a powerful demonstration that you have exercised all due diligence in the selection and appointment of a supplier. You can also be held liable for any failure of your product, particularly if it involves public safety or financial loss to a client.

The Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which is responsible for conformity assessment

and accreditation policy, has published information and guidance for businesses that require testing services to:

- provide assurance to customers that their products or services meet specified requirements
- help them win contracts where conformity assessment and accreditation are required

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accreditation-and-conformity-assessment-guidance-for-business-and-government-departments> to access this information.



ISO 9001 Certification does not ensure technical competence and validity

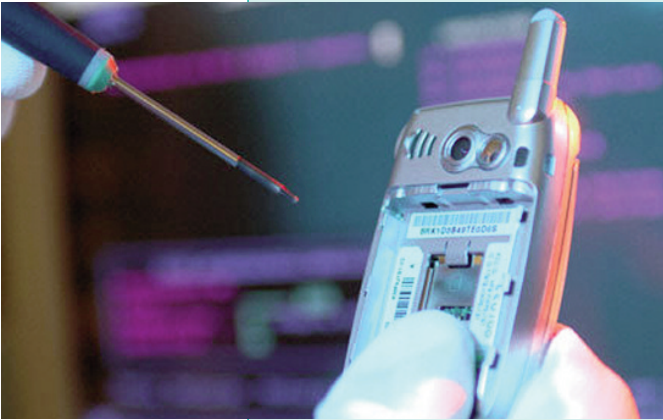


In some areas there are few rules, regulations or minimum standards. Fortunately, there is an assured way to check the technical competence of a laboratory. The internationally recognised standard for the competence of laboratories is ISO/IEC 17025. It is the standard against which UKAS accredits testing laboratories. It is the standard you should look for.

ISO/IEC 17025 should not be confused with the quality management standard ISO 9001:2008. The latter is the generic standard for quality management systems applicable to all organisations irrespective of type, size, product or service provided. It does not require evaluation of the technical competence of a laboratory. ISO 9001 should not be regarded as an 'acceptable' alternative to ISO/IEC 17025. This is because with certification to ISO 9001 the emphasis is on establishing an organisations compliance with requirements for a quality management system, it does not contain technical requirements for personnel and operations.

Identifying a UKAS accredited ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory is simple, each UKAS accredited testing laboratory is permitted to display the National Accreditation testing symbol.

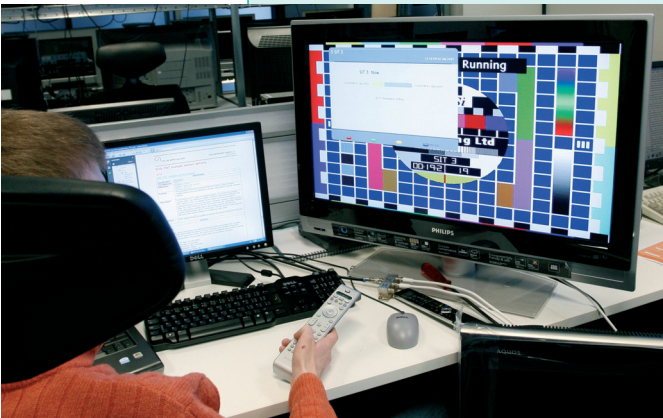
CCL-Forensics



“ UKAS accreditation to ISO/IEC standards provides CCL-Forensics’ customers with the confidence that they have used a supplier that can provide accurate test results. As an organisation specialising in digital investigation, UKAS accreditation is crucial to us as our customers rely on technical competence and credibility of results to demonstrate to the public they have chosen an appropriate supplier. ”

Dave Lattimore,
Total Quality Manager

DTG Testing



“ UKAS accreditation is an instantly recognisable and internationally understood mechanism for demonstrating that our customers can have confidence in the quality of our test and conformance regimes. DTG Testing is an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory for Freeview and Freeview HD conformance, this demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing test and conformance regimes for the digital television industry. ”

Richard Lindsay-Davies,
Director General

Amstel Testing Limited



“ Testing of cookware and ovenware is an essential element of product development for cookware manufacturers and distributors. Achieving UKAS accreditation reinforces the valuable assurance that our services are technically competent and our organisation has been assessed to an internationally recognised standard. This ensures that distributors, retailers and ultimately consumers can be certain that the products they purchase have been tested to the highest standard. ”

Melinda Martin,
Managing Director

What are the risks of using a laboratory that is not accredited to ISO/IEC 17025?

- Inexperienced staff – competence is built on qualifications, knowledge and experience
- Insufficient resource leading to inadequate and incomplete work and possibility of incorrect test results being reported
- A lack of impartiality
- No comeback (no formal complaints procedure, no accountability to UKAS)
- Lack of due diligence/exposure to future claims
- Use of inappropriate sampling and analysis equipment

How do I know what scope an organisation is accredited for?



All organisations accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for testing are listed on the UKAS website. An organisation is only accredited for the activities that are listed on their schedule.

UKAS has formally been appointed as the National Accreditation Body for the United Kingdom under the EU Regulation (No) 765/2008. The Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) works with UKAS to ensure that it operates in the public interest and meets the obligation imposed by the Regulation.



Look for the UKAS symbol

Make an informed choice and have confidence in your suppliers by looking for the UKAS symbol. Only organisations accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for testing is permitted to display the testing symbol, one of the national accreditation symbols.

A full list of UKAS-accredited testing laboratories can be found at www.ukas.com

Alternatively contact **UKAS Corporate Communications:**
Tel: +44 (0)1784 429000 Email: info@ukas.com



Delivering Confidence



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

For further information visit www.ukas.com