

Don't risk it...

A short introductory guide that explains how **you** can minimise risk by using a UKAS accredited laboratory for all your testing and calibration needs



...use a UKAS Accredited Laboratory www.ukas.org

Are you responsible for ensuring your company's product and service quality?

If you are, you'll know that getting it right, first time, every time is a given – and the commercial and legal consequences of getting it wrong don't bear thinking about.

So if you have to appoint an external laboratory, it's good to know there's one thing to know – and that is that the laboratory is accredited for the test and calibration services you need by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

Would you buy and drive a car without MOT and insurance? Of course not. The risks and dangers are obvious. In much



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the same way, when you purchase services from a commercial laboratory, there are risks and dangers if you make the wrong choice. You need to be absolutely sure that the laboratory has the people, facilities, technical expertise, management systems and track record to do the job right. Each time, every time.

You're looking to reduce risk. And that's where the United Kingdom Accreditation Service comes in.

UKAS is **the** sole accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally recognised

standards, laboratories that provide test and calibration services. UKAS combines a depth of technical knowledge and expertise built up over many years with scientific and technical specialists operating across the entire test and calibration spectrum, from forensics to food safety.

Accreditation by UKAS demonstrates the competence, impartiality and performance capability of laboratories. Use a UKAS accredited laboratory and you minimise risk. It's one less thing to worry about.



What to look for in a laboratory

Your appointed laboratory can impact at the heart of your quality promise to customers. It has a crucial part to play in the future success of your company.



The internationally recognised standard for the competence of laboratories is ISO/IEC 17025 and is **the** standard against which UKAS accredits laboratories.

You will come across laboratories that are certified to ISO9000:2000. This standard only relates to the laboratory's quality management systems. It does not specifically evaluate the technical competence of a laboratory. It should never be confused with ISO 17025 or thought of as an 'acceptable' alternative.

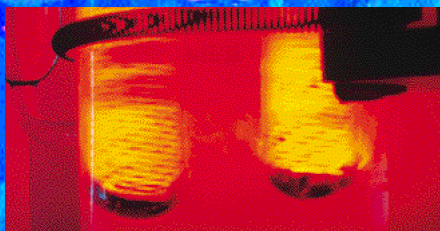
A laboratory that has been accredited by UKAS to ISO 17025 is permitted to display one of the two Royal Crown Marks illustrated here as proof of accreditation. **They are the Marks that you should look for as positive proof of competency.** They allow you to make an informed choice. They enable you to make a better choice.



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"There are a considerable number of cost savings to be made by placing a contract with a UKAS laboratory".

Steve Lower, SIRA



"The UKAS logo is the demonstration of competence. Our customers expect to see it".

Nicola Place, HFL

Why you should use a UKAS accredited laboratory

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

Minimise risk

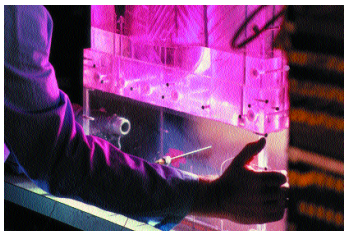
Your customers and your customers' customers demand that the products or services they produce or purchase meet their expectations, which may include conformance to stated specifications. Employing the services of a UKAS accredited laboratory minimises the risk of unreliable results.

Keep your reputation

What can be more important than your company's reputation? A poor reputation for quality among your customers may lead to failure – and a market opportunity for your competitors. When you use the services of an external laboratory you are saying “we trust you with our reputation”. Can you afford **not** to use a UKAS accredited laboratory?

Save money, make money

Unreliable results may lead to expensive re-testing which will place an unnecessary financial burden on your company. By tapping into UKAS' knowledge pool,



calibration and test procedures can be reviewed and refined which may, in turn, enhance innovation and the ability to generate money.

Improve customer relations

Many of your customers may already demand that you use the services of a UKAS accredited laboratory. With potential customers, what better way of gaining a competitive edge and gaining their confidence than by showing that you only use the services of a UKAS accredited laboratory?

International recognition

Through international agreements, overseas markets will more readily accept UKAS accredited laboratory results. The delays and re-test costs that are often associated with bringing products to market are thus minimised, providing you with a competitive edge and an extended life time for your products.

Protect against litigation

In the unlikely event of litigation, the use of a UKAS accredited laboratory is a powerful demonstration in court that you have exercised all due diligence in the selection and appointment of a laboratory. It shows that you have taken 'all reasonable care'. It's a strong message that quality sits at the heart of your company.

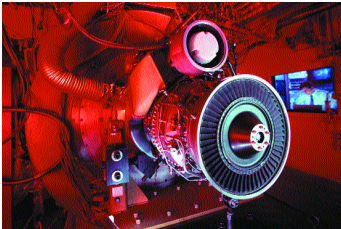


"The integrity offered by a UKAS accredited certificate gives you confidence that it will support your due diligence defence in court."

Alan Kirwilliam, AMTAC Laboratories

Finding out more

We hope that we have convinced you that using a UKAS accredited laboratory is the only affordable solution to your testing and calibration needs.



“Using a UKAS accredited laboratory mitigates against risk – commercial, safety and legal. It’s a way of saying relax”.

Rob Blackburn, Redhill Analysts

If you need to locate a laboratory in your area or alternatively one that provides a particular specialist service, help is at hand.

Visit www.ukas.org for full details of all UKAS accredited laboratories in the UK. The site is easy to use and laboratories can be swiftly identified either by test type or location.

Alternatively further information on UKAS and its accreditation role can be obtained by ringing the UKAS information desk: **+44 (0)20 8917 8555** or **e-mail info@ukas.com**



Department of Trade and Industry