



News, Trends & Developments
in the world of QHSE Aberdeen

Accreditation vs Certification

Not all certificates are equal. You need to make sure your certificate is from a Certification Body that has been accredited by the government-recognised United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

The terms certification and accreditation are often used together. Despite the obvious confusion this can cause, the difference between the two can be easily explained.

Certification represents a written assurance by a third party, of the conformity of a product, process or service to specified requirements.

The UKAS is the national accreditation body for the UK. Its role is to assess organisations that are providing testing, inspection, calibration, and certification services (collectively known as conformity assessment bodies) against internationally recognised standards.

COVID-19

We have all been affected by COVID 19. Businesses have seen many staff working from home, however, with the vaccination programme and Government pathways in place, many organisations can now look forward to welcoming more of their staff back to the workplace.

There have been many Legislative updates in the UK since the start of the pandemic, which can be confusing due to the many changes to any guidance.

Four key areas of primary legislation contain emergency powers relating to COVID 19 and health protection in Scotland.

- Coronavirus Act 2020 (c. 7)
- Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 7)
- Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 (asp 10)
- Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 (asp 5).

Additional information can be found here;

- The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/344)
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/169)
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Public Health Information for Persons Travelling to Scotland) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/170)



CE Mark transition into UKCA Mark



Risk Assessments

One of the changes that has resulted from Brexit, is the requirement for a UK specific marking, for certain manufactured goods, that are to be sold in the UK market. The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking, is a new UK product marking that covers most goods which previously required the CE marking. It also applies to aerosol products that previously required the 'reverse epsilon' marking. The UKCA marking came into effect on 01/01/2021 but the use of the CE mark is allowed until 01/01/2022. For more information and guidance see **Using the UKCA marking - GOV.UK** (www.gov.uk)



QHSE Aberdeen can remove any confusion for your company by way of performing 'Return To Work' risk assessments, assessing and recommending any actions your organisation needs to perform to ensure the health & welfare of staff. This can be tailored to your workforce and environment, with customer focus being our number one priority.

Why Risk Assessments are KEY to your business

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, there is a minimum requirement you must meet.

You can do it yourself or appoint a competent person to help you...

Identify hazards, Assess the risks, Control the risks, Record your findings, Review the controls

Keep your staff up to date, compliant and most of all **SAFE** and free from harm.

We make it our mission to help you improve and grow your business through utilising robust ISO Business Management Systems.

Building great relationships and assuring our Clients our best service at all times.



G7 Summit

During the recent G7 Summit ISO Standards were mentioned on several occasions. See the link to read the full article on the ISO website.

G7 leaders called for the use of common standards, best practices and guidelines and encouraged collaboration with ISO to help build a better future.

"Referencing ISO standards in regulation is consistent with obligations of the World Trade Organization's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, which aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade."