



ACCREDITATION, CERTIFICATION & REGISTRATION

Assessment and certification within the international community such as in UK is deemed by the government to be a voluntary activity. Whilst the government encourages all business to strive for ever better quality and management systems it does not impose any special requirement for registration such as ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 etc.

However QCS Management Pvt Ltd which offers assessment services to various business organizations uses the [International Register of Quality Assessed Organisations - IRQAO](#), to list all its client achievements in respect to their certification process.

Individual purchasing managers may feel that such registration is desirable and sometimes even those within the public service may have a local policy for registration.

Nonetheless, such specification is a local preference and not a government requirement.

For example, the government of United Kingdom has appointed a national accreditation body known as UKAS and it is the only one that the government is allowed to appoint. (European Regulation 765/08 addresses this point). This does not mean that there are no other accreditation bodies permitted to operate in UK. In fact there are many accreditation regimes operating within the UK and some of them have a very narrow remit of operations.

It may help to understand a few terms:-

Assessment of Management Systems

An assessment of the management system provides clarity about the quality position - and the development options. Knowing where you are: An assessment by QCS provides companies and organisations as well as their customers, partners and other stakeholders with clarity about the quality level of individual areas or the entire management system. This gives them the necessary **basis for quality assurance** and continuous improvement. The assessment is part of every process in ensuring quality standards in management systems. Its purpose is to combine data collected and knowledge gained during audits and to formulate conclusions and recommendations. The **independence and honesty** of the auditors play an important role here.

Management System Certification

A certification issued by QCS makes your awareness of quality visible to all. Not all certificates that confirm compliance with a standard are trusted by clients. Only certified companies with highly skilled staff, years of experience and an impeccable reputation can earn that trust. Certification is the best resource if you want to increase the quality of your management system in your organization. Certification facilitates to secure and demonstrate the satisfaction of customers, investors, partners, authorities, employees and the public. Years of experience, cross-industry expertise and international networking are your assurance that QCS certification will give you more than one document - it will give you real added value.



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QCS means Guaranteed Quality

The certification of management systems places high demands on the expertise of the certification body auditors. QCS certificates are recognized worldwide and are synonymous with high quality. This is guaranteed through accreditation by the “Accreditation Service For certifying bodies Europe Ltd (ASCB)”, member of “Global Accreditation Forum(GAF)” an international network of accreditation regimes. To date ASCB has accredited globally over 90 certification bodies, registered over 3500 assessors, auditors and quality related personnel achievements; and certificated over 30,000 organizations. All certificated bodies, organizations and products are placed on the “International Register Of Quality Assessed Organization (IRQAO) that has a live search function, providing the user with instant validation of the authenticity of any ASCB- and other accredited certificate holders.

Certification as a Process

Certification is an activity where several process such as audit and assessment are put together so that a certification body may issue a certificate. The certification body should have no relationship with the organisation receiving the certificate which is why they are often called ‘third party certification bodies’. Typically certification is conducted in accordance with a standard for certification bodies. Currently the most common standard is: ISO 17021-1:2015- Competency requirements for certifying bodies engaged in management system certification process. A document is issued at the end of the certification procedure, which proves that certain requirements are being met, such as a management system. The procedure itself is a dynamic process, which is not completed with the award of the certificate. Certificates usually have limited validity (three years, for example) and must be renewed regularly. This ensures that the quality assurance tools of management systems are firmly anchored in the corporate organisation in a sustainable way. With QCS, you have a partner that is committed to long-term quality in your business and offers additional added value services such as seminars and trainings

Auditing of Management Systems

Auditing by QCS experts improves your business. Each certification is only as valuable as the audits that form the basis of the certification procedure. Because the purpose of auditing is to show clients in an honest way the areas in which the management systems of their businesses or organisations still need be optimized.

Neutrality, independence, incorruptibility and credibility are therefore the principles that guide the QCS specialists in their work. Systematic and well-documented processes for all those involved create transparency and ensure that stated objectives can be achieved and verified.

Customer orientation as a strength

The auditing of management systems is based on a variety of specifications and standardised methods, so that desired quality targets can be met and credibly demonstrated. However, a high standard of auditing should offer more than the routine queries of standard criteria. Because every company and every organisation is working in a context that is affected by specific internal (staff, resources, infrastructure, etc.) and external (customer base, market positioning, etc.)



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factors. That is why QCS places such great emphasis on using auditing procedures that are tailored to the exact needs of customers. This is the only way to guarantee that lessons learned are actually incorporated into the reality of the business and implemented - and that clear added value is provided.

Accreditation is the activity of attesting the activities of a certification body. This is done by an accreditation body and the accreditation body usually has to comply with its own standard and this is typically ISO 17011. ‘Accreditation’ is often a word misused when an ordinary firm is registered regarding ISO 9001 and press releases often talk of them achieving accreditation. In a strict sense it is not true but for the lay person such terminology serves to ‘get the message over’. QCS is accredited by [ASCB](#) .

Clients of certifying bodies are advised that the following lines may assist in their or their clients understanding of this topic:

“X Company is assessed by Y Certification Body regarding standard ISO 9001. X was required to undergo a full document assessment and an on-site assessment for compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001 standard. Following our successful certification and registration we are subjected to at least an annual surveillance visit and additional checks to ensure that during a three period every aspect of the assessed standard is assessed by Y Certification Body.

Y is being accredited by ASCB who are a worldwide operating accreditation authority ([see www.ascb.co.uk](http://www.ascb.co.uk)) . ASCB(E) make at least annual surveillance visits of the Y certification Body. In addition there is regular reporting of all certifications and registrations and these are published at www.irqao.com as in indication of the bona fide nature of the certification and accreditation activity and a sign of achievement of X.

The UK government position is that certification is a voluntary activity. As such there is no legal requirement for certification nor for certification bodies to be accredited. Nonetheless, in some special cases (such as medical devices and other items covered by a small group of EU product directives.) special care is needed. Therefore, the relevant government agency typically has said that certificates can only be issued by a special class of organisation. These are called Notified Bodies and most operate as certification bodies as well. This often is related to products and the subject of CE Marking.



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GUIDES

QCS Management Pvt Ltd publishes a number of guides related to auditing, assessment, certification and accreditation. These are freely downloadable from our web site @www.qcspl.com but copyright is retained by the authors.

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About QCS Management Pvt Ltd.

At QCS accredited by ASCB-UK, we believe that helping a company adopt a Quality, Health and Safety or Environmental standard is not simply about earning certification. Working closely with clients, we take a practical approach: we design registration schemes that improve efficiency and meet the needs of the client, not just the standard.

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