



There is a prevailing prejudice in a particular section of the industrial community that certification bodies need to be always accredited by the members of a specific international community and or National Accreditation Board to gain legitimacy or international acceptance, which is absolutely incorrect. It has always been a conscious effort from our part to create a genuine awareness on certification & accreditation across the cross section of the international community. The following international legislations/ regulations governing conformity assessment in the international community **are self explanatory.**

### **According to ISO (international organization for standardization);**

*In most countries, accreditation is a choice, not an obligation and the fact that a certification body is not accredited does not, by itself, mean that it is not a reputable organization. For example, a certification body operating nationally in a highly specific sector might enjoy such a good reputation that it does not feel there is any advantage for it to go to the expense of being accredited. That said, many certification bodies choose to seek accreditation, even when it is not compulsory, in order to demonstrate an independent confirmation of their competence”-*

### **As per the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Safety (BEIS) of United Kingdom –**

Except where government has specialist regulatory expertise and responsibilities, or where justified by legitimate end-user/consumer concerns, conformity assessment should be a free-market, competitive activity. Accreditation is applicable to both the regulated and non-regulated sectors but should remain voluntary unless required by specific legislation. (*ref : Conformity assessment and accreditation policy in UK*)

### **According to European Accreditation ( EA ) :**

In the European Union, accreditation is performed by national accreditation bodies (NABs) appointed by governments as required by Regulation (EC) 765/2008. In the voluntary area, where there is no specific legislation, companies seek accreditation to provide the market with an impartial attestation of their competence in guaranteeing products' and services' quality, safety, security, etc. (**Ref: accreditation a tool to support regulators**)

**According to BSI® UK :** In the UK, there are several other accreditation bodies but only UKAS is recognized by the government. It should be noted that there is no law against anyone setting up an accreditation body in UK. According to BSI, If a certificate is not accredited does not mean it is not good enough ! For legal and other reasons UKAS is sometimes unable to grant accreditation for certain products, especially in the development stage which other CB's do without UKAS accreditation” . (*ref: Understanding Certification and Accreditation by BSI*)

### **As per the Competition Appellate Tribunal of India (COMPAT);**

Accreditation business is international and there are already several international bodies operating in India; Accreditation Bodies are not required to be covered under any network of law and are free to grant certificates of accreditation to the certifying bodies in India. Any accreditation board would have the authority to act as the accrediting body provided it has suitable infrastructure. [**COMPAT Order dated 17th January 2014**]

**United States of America –USA :** Several accreditation boards mostly from private sectors operate in USA, as The Sherman Act already outlaws every contract in restraint of trade, and any monopolization, attempted monopolization, or combination to monopolize.



UK

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