

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Accreditation?

Third-party verification related to a training program or conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks and verified training activities.

What is certification?

Third-party verification related to training examinations, products, processes, systems or persons.

How do we recognise accreditation?

AIUK Accredited Bodies are recognised by the use of the AIUK Accreditation Mark. The accreditation can be verified directly through AIUK either through the website or from asking directly on acb@ai.uk.com.

How do I check a company's certification?

You can either contact the training or certification body directly or use the Global Register on the AIUK site at www.ai.uk.com/certcos.

Is it mandatory that an Accreditation Body be a member of International Accreditation Forum?

Absolutely not! There is no legislation, UK, European or Global, that say being part of IAF is mandatory. Under European free trade laws it is not legal for any country or group of countries to dictate any such legislation or legislate that there can only be 'one of any type' of organisation operating in any of its territories due to monopolies regulations.

Where can I find the Accredited Bodies list of AIUK?

You can verify a training or certification bodies AIUK accreditation at www.ai.uk.com/aiukcb.

Is the certificate issued by an AIUK Accredited Certification Body for my organisation going to be recognised in other countries?

The decision for recognition of certificates issued by accredited bodies by any country is left to the respective countries recognition process. All potential clients of accredited bodies should verify this if required. To this point we are not aware of any Certificate issued by an AIUK Certification Body being rejected by any country or indeed any organisation.

What would be the cost of accreditation?

The costings comprise of an application fee and assessment fees with ongoing surveillance fees, travel, etc. Please refer to our rates and terms and conditions or contact Wendy Brise at AIUK via email wendy.b@ai.uk.com. AIUK will always provide a quotation prior to the accreditation process.

What is the time period taken for the entire accreditation process?

Applications are sent to the AIUK applications team and managed on a first come first served basis. Lead times of one to two working days can be expected before the first response is received. The accreditation process involves a document review, pre-assessment, final assessment and subsequent accreditation. At each of these stages, comments and improvement opportunities can be raised by the AIUK Lead assessor or the assessment team. These should be responded to by the applicant body as soon as is possible as not to slow down the process. Due to the number of processes involved and the diversity of different organisations processes it is not simple to put a precise time frame for the complete accreditation cycle. Nevertheless, AIUK will be able to provide you with an approximate time frame once we have all the required details. 'How to get accredited' explains more on this matter.

If a certificate is not accredited does that mean it is bad?

Not necessarily! For legal and other reasons AIUK is sometimes unable to grant accreditation for certain services, especially newer ones. This means that most Training and Certification Body's will issue unaccredited certificates for certain products or services, especially in the development stage.