



DAkkS
Who we are

Attesting competence,
Assuring quality,
Creating confidence.



What is accreditation?

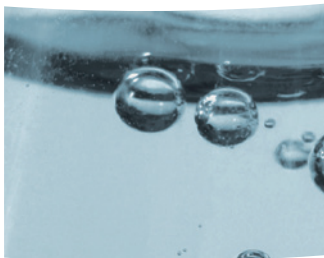
Reliability through conformity assessment

The demands on the quality of goods and services are growing steadily in light of the liberalisation of world trade and the increasing demands of consumers, companies and governmental authorities. Whether it concerns environmental protection, food or electrical industry, public health service or renewable energies – in these sectors as in many others, objective verifications by laboratories as well as inspection and certification bodies play an important role.

These so-called “conformity assessments” ensure that tested products, certified processes, services or systems comply with the requirements defined in the relevant standards, directives and laws.

Confidence through accreditation

Confidence in certificates or test reports, however, depends substantially upon the competence of the person or organisation providing the conformity assessment. Many of these operators prove the quality of their own work by accreditation. By doing so, they demonstrate their competence to an independent accreditation body that their conformity assessments are technically sound because they meet the statutory and normative requirements at an internationally comparable level.



What is the role of DAkkS?

DAkkS (Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle) is the national accreditation body of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is legally mandated to carry out accreditations of conformity assessment bodies.

DAkkS as an independent accreditation body assesses in about 4000 cases the technical competence of accredited laboratories, inspection and certification bodies, whose services are needed in all sectors of industry. Through accreditation DAkkS confirms that these bodies are competent in conducting their tasks in accordance with the applicable requirements. In short: DAkkS controls the controllers (certifiers, testing laboratories, etc.).

Hence DAkkS has an important role to play in strengthening the quality infrastructure and underpinning the German economy.

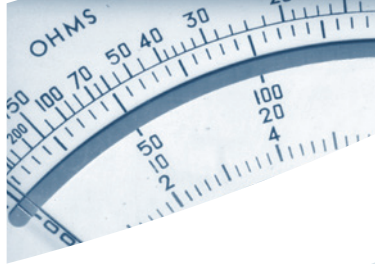
The accreditation process

Application

Assessment

Accreditation

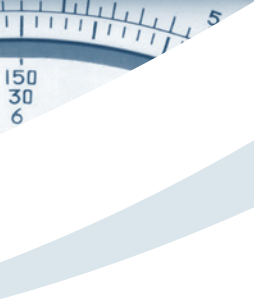
Surveillance



Who can be accredited?

Accreditation activities of DAkKS

Laboratories	Testing and calibration laboratories ISO/IEC 17025
	Medical laboratories [*] ISO 15189
Inspection bodies	ISO/IEC 17020
Certification bodies	for persons [*] ISO/IEC 17024
	for management systems ISO/IEC 17021
	for products ISO/IEC 17065
Providers of proficiency tests	ISO/IEC 17043
Producers of reference materials	ISO Guide 34



What are the advantages of accreditation?

For companies

- Accreditation facilitates companies in selecting a competent service provider for the reliable evaluation of their goods and services.
- Accreditation promotes the international mutual recognition of certificates and test reports. This transparency provides companies the access to national and international markets – or principally allows for this possibility.

For consumers

- Accreditation increases the confidence of consumers in the quality and safety of products and services.

For accredited bodies

- Accreditation is an objective confirmation and approval as evidence of the competence of conformity assessment activities.
- Accreditation demonstrates the competence of a conformity assessment body that meets the relevant international standards. It provides a market advantage over non-accredited competitors.



How to recognise an accredited body?

All bodies accredited by DAkkS can demonstrate their accredited status by the accreditation certificate issued to them.

In addition, accredited bodies may make reference to their accredited status by using the DAkkS accreditation symbol on test reports and certificates. This is as proof of the high quality of their conformity assessment services, distinguishing them from those of non-accredited bodies. The symbol consists of the protected mark of DAkkS and a distinct registration number.

A database of all accredited bodies is provided by DAkkS on its website (www.dakks.de).





About DAkkS

Since 1 January 2010, DAkkS has taken on the role as the national accreditation body of Germany. DAkkS is entrusted by the Federal Government with its public authority tasks and is subject to the German administrative law and operates on a non-profit basis. Shareholders of DAkkS are the Federal Republic of Germany, some Federal States and the industry, represented by the Federation of German Industry (BDI).

DAkkS has its headquarters in Berlin. Other locations of DAkkS are Frankfurt am Main and Braunschweig. DAkkS acts in public interest as the sole provider of accreditation services in Germany and in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008 and the Act on the Accreditation Body (AkkStelleG).

DAkkS is a member of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). It is a signatory to the Multilateral Agreements (MLA) of these organisations. The mutual recognition of accreditations among the Member Countries ensures the acceptance of conformity assessments in Europe and all over the world.



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