

# **MCERTS manual stack emission monitoring - the next 5 years**

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**MCERTS**

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S  
MONITORING CERTIFICATION SCHEME

# MCERTS manual stack emission monitoring - the next 5 years

John Tipping

Industry & Waste Regulation

Environment Agency

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## Today's presentation

- Overview of MCERTS for stack emission monitoring
  - Five years old this year!
  - Where are we in delivering quality?
  - Plans for the next 5 years
- UKAS views on auditing and surveillance

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# MCERTS for manual stack emission monitoring

- Two components
  - Performance standard for laboratories
  - Performance standard for personnel
- UKAS accreditation of laboratories to ISO17025 for the MCERTS standard
- Certification of personnel by Sira Certification Service operating to ISO 17024

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## MCERTS for stack monitoring

- The first five years
  - A lot of hard work by everybody!
  - Overall a great success
    - 400+ people with personal certification
    - 32 laboratories with MCERTS accreditation
  - Quality of work generally improved
  - Needed to underpin EN 14181 work
  - Future implementation of WG19 standard
  - Long term aim to improved status for stack emission monitoring

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## MCERTS - time for a review?

- Five years
  - a long time or just the start?
- We've kept the scheme under constant review
  - Changes and improvements to the standards
  - Learned from experience
  - Looked for opportunities for simplification
  - Couple of areas requiring closer attention
  - Grateful for the help and support of the STA and MCERTS Steering Committee

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# MCERTS performance standard for organisations

- Recently completed a major review of the standard
- Simplified it in many places
- Removed duplication
  - with ISO 17025 management clauses
  - with new CEN standards e.g. for equipment calibration
- Started to align with forthcoming WG 19 standard
- Improved site specific protocol format
  - Part 1/Part 2 to make easier to complete
- Revised standard published by the end of April

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# MCERTS performance standard for organisations

- Still some work to do
- Importance of carrying out a proper contract review under ISO 17025
  - Ensuring the customer understands the work to take place
  - Confirmation that you are providing what they want
- Site Specific Protocol
  - Still a challenge to get people to do it properly
  - Recent changes should help - will keep under close scrutiny



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## Policing of the scheme

- Feedback from some customers indicated the current system of policing was not strong enough
- Unannounced audits carried out by us and UKAS have shown a lot of good work but also some that fails to meet the MCERTS standard
- As a result we've now asked UKAS to increase the policing of the scheme
- Jeff Ruddle of UKAS will tell you more about UKAS's plans for the future in the second part of this session
- For everybody involved it is critical that the scheme remains credible and delivers the required quality

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# MCERTS

## personnel competency standard

- Recently completed a review of the standard
- Simplified and clarified in several places
- Major changes
  - Level 2 multiple choice exam removed - confident the oral exam alone provides demonstration of competency
  - Two year rule removed
  - Use of personal stack monitoring record mandatory
  - Clause added to allow us to interview Level 2 personnel at any time if a serious complaint is received and upheld by the Exam Board
- Recertification requirements now detailed

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## Recertification details

- Candidates will be given 12 months prior to their certification expiring to complete recertification
- Your responsibility to ensure you apply in good time
- Level 1 personnel will take a combined multiple choice and written paper
- Technical endorsements will be renewed by taking a combined multiple choice and written paper (written paper only for limited endorsements)
- Level 2 recertification will be based on experience requirements only
  - No repeat of the oral exam

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## Why do we require recertification?

- Not very popular!
- The scheme operates under ISO 17024
- Requirement of ISO 17024 to complete a recertification process
- Maximum time period for recertification is 5 years
- Recertification process can be delivered by examination, continuous professional development, on the job assessment etc
- Many examples of recertification e.g.
  - Welding and inspection personnel, first aid practitioners, IT professionals

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# Why not continuous professional development?

- We do not exclude future adoption of CPD
- Workshops and technical transfer seminars could be assessed and given points
- Attendance of sufficient courses over 5 years could provide enough evidence for recertification
- But...

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# Why not continuous professional development?

- Workshops and seminars would have to have tests at the end
- Time away from work would increase
- Overall running costs would increase
- However, if such a scheme could be set up e.g. by the STA and/or other providers we would seriously consider it
- Will look at this again with the STA over the next 12 months

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## Technical guidance notes

- Just a reminder of key reference documents
  - M1: Sampling Requirements for Stack Emission Monitoring
  - M2: Monitoring of Stack Emissions to Air
  - M20: Quality assurance of continuous emission monitoring systems - application of BS EN 14181 and BS EN 13284-2
  - Method implementation documents (MIDs)
- Latest versions of the documents at
  - [www.mcerts.net](http://www.mcerts.net)
  - [www.S-T-A.org](http://www.S-T-A.org)

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## Summary

- Overview of MCERTS for manual stack emissions monitoring after the first 5 years
- Development of the standards and recertification requirements
- Now hand over to Jeff Ruddle of UKAS to discuss the latest developments on accreditation under MCERTS







# MCERTS Manual Stack Emissions Monitoring

The Next Five Years

Jeff Ruddle – UKAS Environment Section

*Delivering  
Confidence*

# Outline

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- **Background**
- **The MCERTS Scheme**
  - **Interaction with ISO/IEC 17025**
  - **Scheme Management**
  - **Scheme Confidence**
- **Where Next?**



# The Role of UKAS

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- **The United Kingdom Accreditation Service is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.**
- **UKAS' Competence**
  - **Peer Assessment to ISO/IEC 17011**



# Background

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- **Accreditation demonstrates capability, competence and compliance.**
- **ISO/IEC 17025 “General Requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories”**
- **UKAS accrediting SEM organisations to ISO/IEC 17025 for a number of years**
- **EA MCERTS Scheme added in 2002 currently 32 accredited organisations**



# The MCERTS Scheme

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- **Interaction with ISO/IEC 17025**
  - **Accreditation to 17025 specifically for MCERTS performance standard**
  - **MCERTS std clarifies and specifies requirements for SEM sector**
  - **Assessment of SEM organisations to the requirements of both**

# The MCERTS Scheme

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- **Clarity of Scope of Accreditation**
  - Schedules on [www.ukas.org](http://www.ukas.org)
  - National, European, International and other recognised standards, documented in-house methods and work instructions (where required) **to meet the requirements of the Environment Agency (MCERTS) Performance Standard**
  - Accreditation does not mean all tests are covered, only those specified on schedule



# Scheme Management

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- **UKAS Focal Point – Narinder Ramewal**
- **Specific Technical Assessors**
- **Regular EA/UKAS meetings**
- **STA Meetings**





# Scheme Management

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- **Assessment Team**
- **Accreditation Cycle**
  - **Initial Assessment**
  - **Surveillance/Reassessment**
  - **Unannounced Visits**



# SEM Organisation Responsibilities

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- **Contract Review**
  - **Site Review, SSP & Risk Assessments**
- **Monitoring Teams**
- **Customer Feedback and Complaints**
- **Non-conforming work**
- **Clarity of Reporting**



# Confidence in the Scheme

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- **Investigation of Complaints**
- **Sanctions**
  - **Suspension or Withdrawal**
  - **Full or Partial**
  - **Imposed or Voluntary**
- **Sanctions Awareness**
  - **UKAS websites**
  - **Organisation's Responsibility**



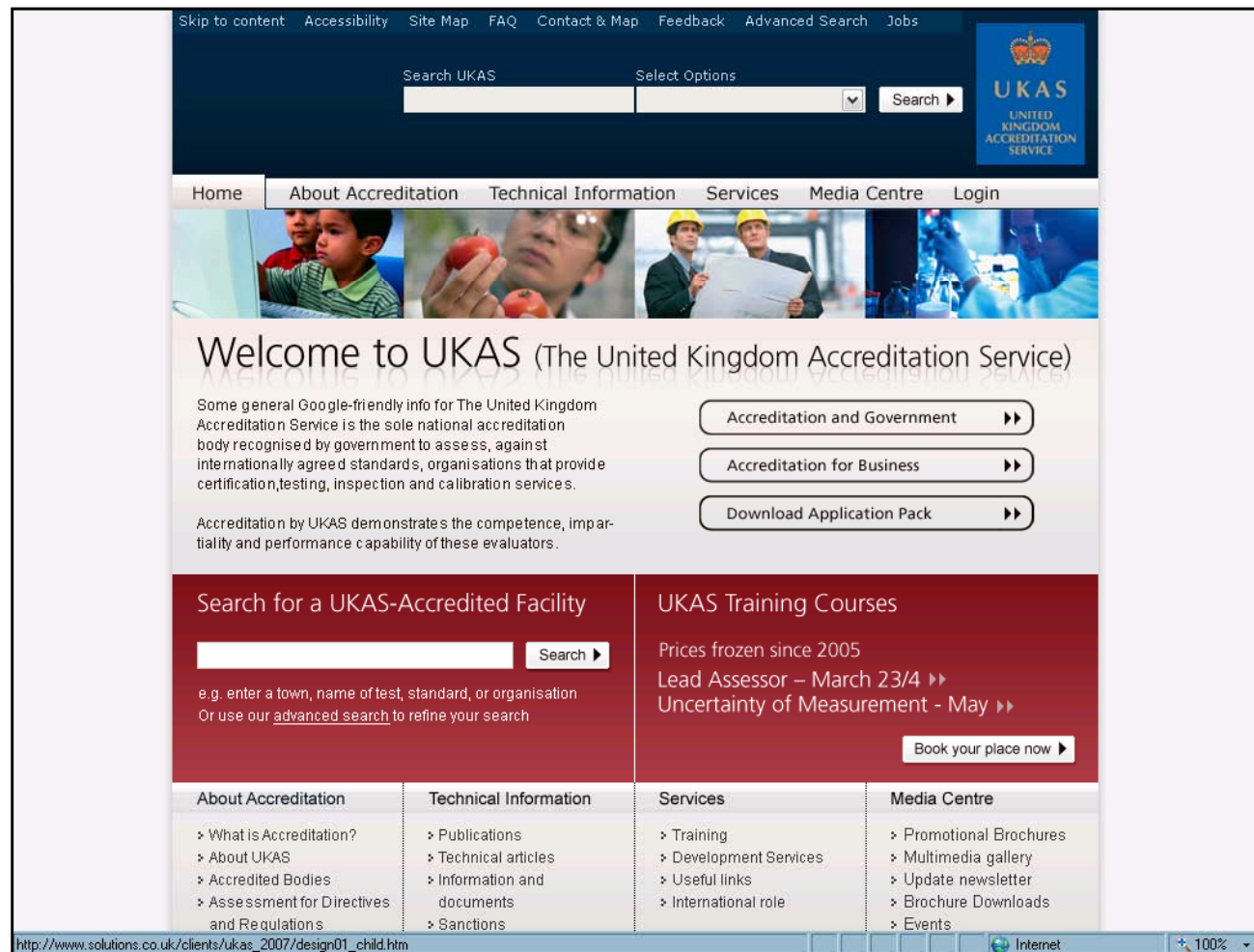
# Where Next – MCERTS Developments

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- **Unannounced Visits**
- **Revision of MCERTS Standard**
- **European Guidance on operations of SEM Organisations**
- **Expansion of Accredited Organisations**
  - **Currently 4 applicants**

# Where Next – UKAS Developments

- **UKAS Website Update**



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Welcome to UKAS (The United Kingdom Accreditation Service)

Some general Google-friendly info for The United Kingdom Accreditation Service is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.

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[http://www.solutions.co.uk/clients/ukas\\_2007/design01\\_child.htm](http://www.solutions.co.uk/clients/ukas_2007/design01_child.htm)



# Where Next – UKAS Developments

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- **Creation of Environment Section**
- **EDM – Electronic Document Management**
- **Customer Web Access**
- **Simplification of Accreditation Process**

# QUESTIONS