



SAFETY ASSESSMENT  
FEDERATION

# Owner / User Guidance

Safety Assessment Federation and the  
use of Accredited Bodies

REFERENCE: OU 04

ISSUE: 02

DATE: 28/11/2017

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:	
REFERENCE:	OU 04
ISSUE:	02
DATE:	28/11/2017
PREPARED BY:	TC 6
APPROVED BY:	TSC

DOCUMENT HISTORY RECORD:		
ISSUE:	DATE:	CHANGE DETAIL:
01	2001	Initial Document
02	28/11/2017	Document Review

© The Safety Assessment Federation Ltd

All rights reserved. Except for normal review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced, utilised, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information, storage or retrieval system without the written permission of the publisher.

**CONTENTS**

Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) ..... 1

BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012..... 1

Independence, impartiality and integrity..... 2

Types of inspection bodies ..... 2

  Type A ..... 2

  Type B ..... 2

  Type C ..... 2

Some key definitions ..... 3

  1. Accreditation ..... 3

  2. Certificate of conformity ..... 3

  3. Certification ..... 3

  4. Inspection ..... 3

  5. Notified body ..... 3

  6. Notifying authority ..... 3

  7. Testing ..... 4

If you own or manage equipment with the potential to injure people, for example pressure systems (boilers) or transportation systems (lifts) at your place of work, Health and Safety at Work Legislation requires that this equipment must be thoroughly examined at regular intervals and that it should be maintained in a condition that allows for safe operation.

### Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed)

SAFed is the principal body for the independent examination and inspection industry in the UK. The core members have been in the industry since legal requirements for examination and inspection were introduced to reduce accidents and loss of life in the 1800's.

SAFed members employ over 2,000 Engineer Surveyors throughout the UK to carry out examinations and inspections. Annually in excess of five million examinations and inspections of plant and equipment are undertaken.

Members operate to an agreed Competence Standard, SAFed Standard (SS01), which sets out the requirements for recruitment, training and continuous professional development of their Engineer Surveyors. This process includes specific plant and equipment training relevant to their professional expertise. Training is further enhanced by the SAFed Health and Safety Passport Scheme which requires Engineer Surveyors to complete specific Health and Safety awareness as part of their continuous professional education.

Members carry out examinations and inspection in accordance with the requirements of the internationally agreed standard for inspection bodies, BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012. Accreditation for a particular scope of examination is entrusted by the Department of British Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to the United Kingdom Accreditation Services (UKAS).

Through its expertise in the inspection industry SAFed and its Members have developed strong working relationships with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in a number of specialist areas including the production of industry best practice and Guidelines.

### BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012

Companies or individuals that employ inspection bodies accredited to BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 satisfy the legal requirements of competence in this respect and can be assured that the body has:

- the technical competence to undertake its inspection activities professionally and authoritatively.
- the infrastructure to deliver a quality service.

This is formally endorsed by the HSE in respect of statutory and non-statutory examinations of workplace equipment.

### Independence, impartiality and integrity

In addition to demonstrating competence, the HSE advise that the company or person carrying out the examination should be sufficiently independent and impartial to allow an objective assessment of equipment without conflict of interest. Such companies that only provide inspection services (UKAS type A inspection bodies - see below) are not engaged in supply, repair or maintenance of equipment they inspect and satisfy this requirement. Irrespective of this, the standard (BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012) calls for procedures to be documented to assure that inspection body staff are free from commercial, financial or other pressures which might affect their judgement.

### Types of inspection bodies

#### Type A

Type A inspection bodies shall demonstrate that it is not linked to a party directly involved in design, manufacture, supply, installation, purchase, ownership, use or maintenance of the items inspected - BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012.

#### Type B

Type B inspection bodies form a demonstrably separate and identifiable part of an organisation that is involved in the design, manufacture, supply, installation, use or maintenance of items they inspect - Type B inspection bodies supply inspection services only to their parent organisation - BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012.

#### Type C

Type C inspection bodies are involved in the design, manufacture, supply, installation, use or maintenance of items they inspect - Inspections carried out by them may include first party inspections and second party inspections of the same type as carried out by Type B bodies - BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012.

## Some key definitions

### 1. Accreditation

Procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks - BS EN ISO/IEC 17000: 2012.

### 2. Certificate of conformity

Document issued under rules of a certification system, indicating that adequate confidence is provided that a duly identified product, process or service is in conformity with a specific standard or other normative document - ISO/IEC guide 2: 2004. In the context of independent inspection, a formal, written declaration that what has been inspected is fit for purpose i.e. conforms to relevant stated requirements.

### 3. Certification

Procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements - BS EN ISO/IEC 17000: 2004.

### 4. Inspection

Examination of a product design, product, service, process or plant, and determination of their conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgment, general requirements -

BS EN ISO/IEC 17020: 2012.

### 5. Notified body

Conformity assessment operator, independent of supplier and/or user, who assists with the implementation of New Approach and Global Approach Directives by providing a legally-based system of conformity assessment.

### 6. Notifying authority

Member State government which appoints Notified Bodies within its legal jurisdiction and 'notifies' (informs) the European Commission. The Notifying Authority must assure itself that a prospective Notified Body has the technical infrastructure and competence, financial security, and the necessary legal/insurance base to undertake the specified conformity assessment activities; the UK government (Department for Trade and Industry) has appointed the United Kingdom Accreditation Service - UKAS - to assess applicant bodies against these requirements. See also 'accreditation' above.

## 7. Testing

A technical process which uses a specified procedure to measure one or more characteristics of a product.

# Promoting Safety | Reducing Risk | Adding Value



SAFETY ASSESSMENT  
FEDERATION

Unit 4 1<sup>st</sup> Floor | South Lambeth Road | Vauxhall | London | SW8 1RL

Tel: +44 (0)20 7582 3208

Email: [admin@safed.co.uk](mailto:admin@safed.co.uk)