



## **Paper 8 - Notified Bodies**

### **Introduction**

UK manufacturers use 'Notified Bodies' (NBs) to check that their products conform to the essential requirements of European Directives, which have also been transposed into UK law. NBs are also known as Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) which are accredited by a National Accreditation Body (NAB), appointed by the respective member state. For the UK it is UKAS who provides the list of UK accredited bodies to BEIS who then supplies the list of UK NB's to the European Commission, which is subsequently listed on the NANDO website.

With the UK potentially leaving the single market, the risk is that our UK NB's are no longer recognised by the European Commission as they would no longer reside in the European Union. This would mean that at huge expense, manufacturers would be forced to use NB's on the continent to CE mark their products! Although existing certificates may still stand, variations to design, factory audits and new products would require EU NB's. Also, 4,500 people work in the UK NB sector which has 20,000 customers and is a £2bn industry, this would be under threat.

### **Recommendation**

Regulation (EC) 765/2008 of 9 July 2008 sets out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and states "Member States should not maintain more than one national accreditation body and should ensure that that body is organised in such a way as to safeguard the objectivity and impartiality of its activities."

UKAS is appointed as a National Accreditation Body under EU Regulation 765/2008 and is a highly respected member of 'European Accreditation', 'International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation' and the 'International Accreditation Forum'.

It is therefore recommended that the requirements of Regulation 765/2008 are brought into UK law via the Great Repeal Bill and that the Government confirms UKAS' status as the sole UK National Accreditation Body.

UK industry also recommends that the government signs a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with the EU whereby UK NBs could continue to issue European certificates of conformity, valid in both the UK and Europe. There are precedents for this with 113 'European' NBs in non-EU countries including the USA, Japan and Canada, although they do not cover safety directives such as ATEX and the Machinery Directive.

The advantage in this situation however, is that if the legislation and implementation of legislation is the same as on the continent, the agreement should be simple and mutually beneficial.