



New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade

DCMS

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Your reference: <

Our reference: <CC/G/GC/2018/NZ FT C

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Dear Colleague,

### **Call for Submissions on a Future UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is grateful for the opportunity to respond to this call for submissions on a future UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. In particular UKAS notes two of the key benefits that New Zealand is seeking from an effective free trade agreement:

- Removing tariffs and other barriers that restrict the free flow of goods between our two countries.
- Making it easier for traders of all sizes to do business in the UK, including services exporters

UKAS believes that these benefits can only be achieved if the free trade agreement includes the mutual recognition of testing, certification and accreditation.

UKAS is the only national body recognised by the UK Government for the accreditation, against recognised standards, of organisations providing calibration, testing, certification, inspection and medical diagnostic services. UKAS is appointed as the national accreditation body in the UK by The Accreditation Regulations 2009 (SI No 3155/2009) and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, on behalf of the UK Government as a whole. We are a world-leading innovator in accreditation services. Our development projects range from physiological diagnostic services to nuclear new build, energy management and retail banking products and more recently we have extended our scope of activity into the fields of data protection and cybersecurity.

UKAS is also highly active and influential internationally as a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) holding positions on both Executives. UKAS' involvement in international groups provides for mutual recognition of certificates issued by UKAS and by UKAS accredited organisations, further reducing the need for multiple supplier assessments and as a consequence helping reduce barriers to trade.

It is vitally important that any free trade agreement between New Zealand and the UK includes the mutual recognition of testing, certification and accreditation. Mutual recognition of testing and certification will enable UK businesses to be able to export products and services to New Zealand without the need for the testing and certification to be repeated in New Zealand and vice versa for New Zealand businesses wishing to export to the UK.

Accreditation is the means by which the competence of testing and certification organisations is demonstrated. Therefore, for testing and certification to be mutually recognised, the supporting accreditation also needs to be mutually recognised. As the Government appointed national accreditation body for the UK, member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) UKAS' accreditations are recognised by the other member bodies. This provides for the mutual recognition of testing and certification for non-regulated, business to business transactions.

However, the UK and New Zealand have a number of additional regulatory requirements for testing and certification that are not covered by the voluntary ILAC and IAF agreements. It is for this reason that the mutual recognition of testing, certification and accreditation needs to be included in any trade agreement between New Zealand and the UK. Otherwise New Zealand businesses wishing to export regulated products to the UK will be required to have them tested and certified in the UK as well as in New Zealand, and vice versa for UK businesses wishing to export to New Zealand, adding to cost and causing delays.

If you have any queries or require more information about UKAS and/or the UK Government's national accreditation policy please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully.

Suzi Daley  
**External Affairs Adviser**