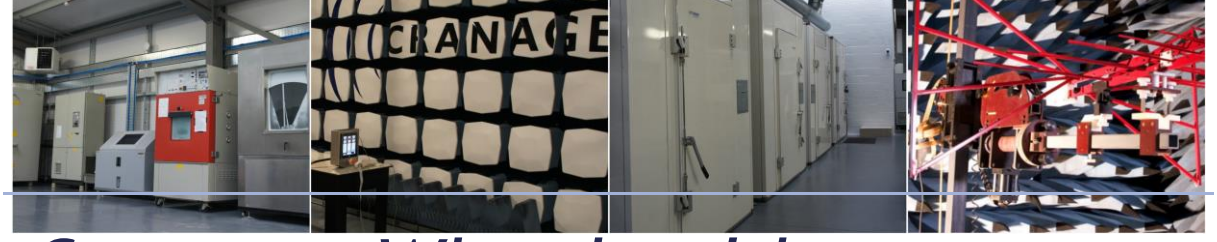

Cranage: Why should you use an accredited laboratory?

When weighing up your options of which laboratory to fulfil your testing requirements, you begin to question cost and time efficiency – but most importantly to question is; the supply of accurate results and whether they are reliable.

There is a variety of factors to be considered when analysing the technical competence of a test laboratory, and those are:

- Does the Engineer or person undertaking the testing have the correct qualifications, training, experience and knowledge?
- Is the equipment used properly calibrated and well-maintained?
- Sufficient quality assurance procedures
- Correct testing procedures
- The validity of testing methods
- Traceability of measurements towards national standards
- Accurate recording and reporting of procedures
- Adequate testing facilities to meet your needs

All these factors significantly contribute to Cranage's test laboratory to be technically competent to carry out testing your product.

What is the added value of using an ISO 9001 certified testing laboratory?

Laboratories and test houses are certified and audited annually to an international standard known as ISO 9001. The standard is widely used within the manufacturing industry and allow service providers to evaluate their systems by managing the quality standard of their product and service. This standard confirms the certified compliance of a service, however, does not evaluate technical compliance of a laboratory. But how can you be sure that a laboratory is technically compliant?

How to be sure of an expert testing laboratory?

As it is known, most countries globally rely on the process that is laboratory accreditation (mainly UKAS) which means the determination of technical compliance. Accreditation practises criteria and procedures specially selected to determine the technical competence of a laboratory. A specialist technical assessor role is to conduct a thorough evaluation of every factor within a laboratory (as listed above) to which would affect the production of tests or celebrative data, plus:

- Validity of testing methods, are they appropriate?
- Traceability of measurements and calibrations accurate to national standards
- Test equipment being well maintained, suitable and correctly calibrated

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- The testing environment (lab based)
- The handling of client's products/equipment and transportation options

- Quality assurance of test and calibration data

Accreditation also incorporates quality systems addressed to ISO 9001 certification. To ensure continued compliance, we at Cranage, a UKAS accredited laboratory are regularly re-examined to determine that we are properly maintaining our standards of technical expertise.

Cranage has multiple testing facilities accredited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and evaluate products for EMC, radio communication, electrical safety, mechanical and environmental performance. We have also been appointed by Brussels as a Notified Body for 2014/30/EU Electromagnetic Compatibility. To see evidence of our accreditation, please visit: https://ukas.com/wp-content/uploads/schedule_uploads/00002/1833Testing%20Multiple.pdf