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Who is CfA?



Centre for Assessment (CfA) is a leading **UKAS-accredited** body* offering certification to several quality standards. With our head office in Manchester, we have auditors and assessors strategically placed to provide certification audits to companies of any size, across the UK and Europe.

Established over 20 years ago, we have built a large portfolio of clients in the construction sector, including residential and commercial builders, engineering firms, architects, equipment manufacturers, material providers, and many more. Our clients hold several recognized certifications, including **ISO 9001, 14001, 45001, SSiP**, and other value-adding frameworks.

Our priority is our customers. We work collaboratively to find certification solutions that address a company's specific needs. By working with CfA, your company can gain a competitive edge, improve internal processes, and build stronger relationships with clients and stakeholders.

*Not all of our services are UKAS-accredited

ISO 9001

Quality Management System

What is ISO 9001?

ISO 9001 is an internationally-recognised Standard that specifies the requirements for a Quality Management System (QMS). A QMS is a formalised framework that documents processes, procedures and responsibilities to ensure a company consistently meets customer and regulatory requirements while improving its effectiveness and efficiency.

What are the benefits of implementing a QMS?

Companies who have implemented and operate a QMS that complies with ISO 9001 say that the benefits include:

- enhanced operational efficiency
- improved customer satisfaction
- reduced costs
- secured regulatory compliance
- improved management of risk
- fostered continuous improvement.



Why get certified with CfA?

Achieving ISO 9001 certification through an audit by a UKAS-accredited certification body demonstrates that your Quality Management System (QMS) is effective and reliable. This certification not only enhances your company's credibility and competitive edge but is also often a prerequisite for securing government projects and winning private sector contracts.

Choosing Centre for Assessment (CfA) as your ISO 9001 certification body offers several advantages.

- **Dedicated Support:** Receive personalised assistance throughout the application process.
- **Competitive Pricing:** Benefit from a competitive, no-obligation proposal tailored to your needs.
- **No Management Fees:** Enjoy a transparent pricing structure with no hidden management fees.
- **Expert Auditors:** Gain access to highly skilled and experienced auditors who understand the construction industry.

How can I find out more?

Having certified many clients in the construction sector, we can provide more details about the certification process and what this might look like for your company, including a toolkit which is available on <https://www.centreforassessment.co.uk/iso-9001-certification/>. We can deliver training on the Standard or a gap analysis. We can also signpost you to a list of independent consultants who can assist in the build and maintenance of your Management System.

ISO 14001

Environmental Management System

What is ISO 14001?

The ISO 14001 Standard is a published framework that sets out the requirements for a company to build an Environmental Management System (EMS). While it follows the same structure as other Management System Standards (such as ISO 9001), ISO 14001 focuses specifically on promoting environmental best practices and improving environmental performance.

What are the benefits of implementing an EMS?

Implementing an EMS can offer numerous benefits for a construction company, including:

- ensuring compliance with environmental laws and regulations, reducing the risk of fines and legal issues
- identifying opportunities to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency, leading to cost savings
- demonstrating a commitment to sustainability, which can be a key differentiator when bidding for contracts
- identifying and mitigating environmental risks, enhancing overall project safety



Why get certified with CfA?

Certifying your EMS is your way of showcasing your dedication to environmental responsibility. UKAS-accredited certification will enhance your company's credibility and trustworthiness in the eyes of your clients and stakeholders. We can offer you:

- personalised support from our Business Development and Client Services teams
- auditors with an understanding of both the construction sector and the environmental issues it faces
- an integrated audit of your EMS and your QMS (or other Management System Standards that you hold).

How can I find out more?

Talk to us about your ISO 14001 certification journey and the specific needs that you have. You can also visit our website: <https://www.centreforassessment.co.uk/iso-14001-certification/> to read more about the Standard and to see what some of our clients say about working with us.

ISO 14068

Carbon Neutrality

What is ISO 14068?

ISO 14068 sets out principles, requirements and guidance for achieving and demonstrating carbon neutrality. Published by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) in 2023, it replaces PAS 2060: the British Standards Institute's carbon neutrality specification. This makes ISO 14068 the first international Standard to address this important global theme.

What are the benefits of implementing the requirements of this Standard?

It is almost universally recognised that the construction industry needs to do more to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. With the Government putting pressure on companies to invest in their journey to net zero, having clear carbon reduction plans has never been more important. However, this is not always easy. Using ISO 14068 as a framework will help you to:

- enhance the transparency of your environmental impact through effective measuring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions
- set short-term and long-term goals for reducing these emissions
- ensure you stay ahead of regulatory requirements and align with The Environment Agency's climate change schemes and global climate goals
- offset your residual carbon footprint by investing in ethical, impactful carbon credits
- share best practice with your supply chain and to the wider built economy
- make cost savings associated with more responsible use of natural resources.

Why get certified with CfA?

Certification to this new ISO is a clear way to ensure your claims of carbon neutrality are genuine and are based on verifiable data. By having an external body verify your carbon neutrality claims, you reduce the risk of reputational damage from accusations of greenwashing and can ensure that your sustainability efforts are robust and credible.

ISO 14068 is relatively new to the market, so our first cohort of certified companies will be trailblazers in compliance, setting an example for others in the industry.

How can I find out more?

As carbon neutrality is very much on the national agenda at the moment, there is a wealth of online resources available to help companies understand the topic. We champion ISO 14068 as one of the best ways to benchmark your performance in this area. Read the Standard, consider your commitment to it, and share your carbon neutral certification journey with us.

ISO 30415

HR Management: Diversity & Inclusion

What is ISO 30415?

With Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) now recognized as a key aspect of effective HR management, ISO 30415 offers a comprehensive framework to help companies excel in this area. This Standard outlines the core principles and themes of D&I, emphasizing the importance of fostering an inclusive workplace. ISO 30415 addresses the entire employment lifecycle, from recruitment to the end of employment, ensuring that D&I considerations are integrated at every stage.

What are the benefits of implementing the requirements of this Standard?

Many of the conversations in the construction industry around D&I themes are thoroughly addressed in ISO 30415. Gender diversity, inclusive leadership, and flexible working practices are all enhanced by aligning the Standard with HR approaches in order to create a more equitable industry. This brings numerous potential benefits, including:

- enhancing your reputation by taking D&I seriously
- creating more diverse teams, fostering innovation and creativity
- improving employee engagement, leading to better retention of the best staff
- better compliance with legislation such as The Equality Act (2010), reducing the risk of legal issues
- increasing team collaboration and participation, leading to more productive teams.

Why get certified with CfA?

Certification to a D&I Standard is one of the best ways to demonstrate your company's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and continuous improvement in this area. ISO 30415 contains numerous requirements, and a certification audit from us can help you:

- gain external recognition of good practice or celebrate the success of your D&I initiatives
- receive constructive feedback on areas needing further development from a D&I specialist
- host annual audits to confirm the progress you are making in improving the inclusivity of your workforce
- join a growing network of industry-leading certified organizations.

How can I find out more?

The internet is full of resources to help construction companies understand D&I imperatives, but we recommend your start by purchasing a copy of ISO 30415. From there, we can support you on your journey to certification or direct you to a list of consultants who can provide more specific guidance. Get in touch to help us understand your requirements and how we can meet them.

ISO 45001

Occupational Health & Safety Management

What is ISO 45001?

Introduced in 2018, ISO 45001 is the first international Standard designed to help organisations build an Occupational Health & Safety Management System (OHSMS). Its primary aim is to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by effectively managing risks. Like other Management System Standards, ISO 45001 follows the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) methodology.

What are the benefits of implementing an OHSMS?

Health and safety management is critically important in the construction sector due to the inherently hazardous nature of construction work. Here are some reasons why having a structured OHSMS can be essential.

- Help manage risks of accidents and injuries associated with heavy machinery, hazardous materials and potentially dangerous workplaces.
- Protect workers by creating a safe working environment.
- Foster a safety culture, where workers are actively involved in health and safety decisions.
- Reduce downtime, compensation claims, and insurance premiums.

Why get certified with CfA?

ISO 45001 certification with CfA involves a thorough audit process, including a detailed review of your OHSMS in Stage One, followed by an on-site evaluation in Stage Two to assess its practical application. Your auditor will ensure your compliance with the ISO 45001 Standard and relevant legislation applicable to your company.

UKAS-accredited ISO 45001 certification is often a contractual requirement, making it easier for your company to access and secure contracts. By choosing CfA, you can demonstrate a strong commitment to the safety and wellbeing of your workers, showcasing your dedication to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.

Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSiP)

SSiP is a mutual recognition arrangement designed to streamline health and safety standards, primarily within the construction sector. Holding an SSiP certificate helps reduce the costs and administrative burden of complying with multiple similar schemes required for procurement.

Accreditation is achieved through an assessment of specific health and safety requirements, many of which overlap with ISO 45001, although there are additional criteria unique to SSiP.

An SSiP assessment is conducted by one of our specialist auditors, who reviews a checklist of requirements. If your company demonstrates compliance, you will be issued an SSiP certificate.

How can I find out more?

You may already be familiar with Management System Standards. If you are certified to ISO 9001 or ISO 14001, and you could add ISO 45001 to your portfolio. If you hold ISO 45001 then you may like to discuss adding SSiP. Whatever option you choose, talk to us and we will be happy to help.

ISO 45003

Psychological health and safety at work

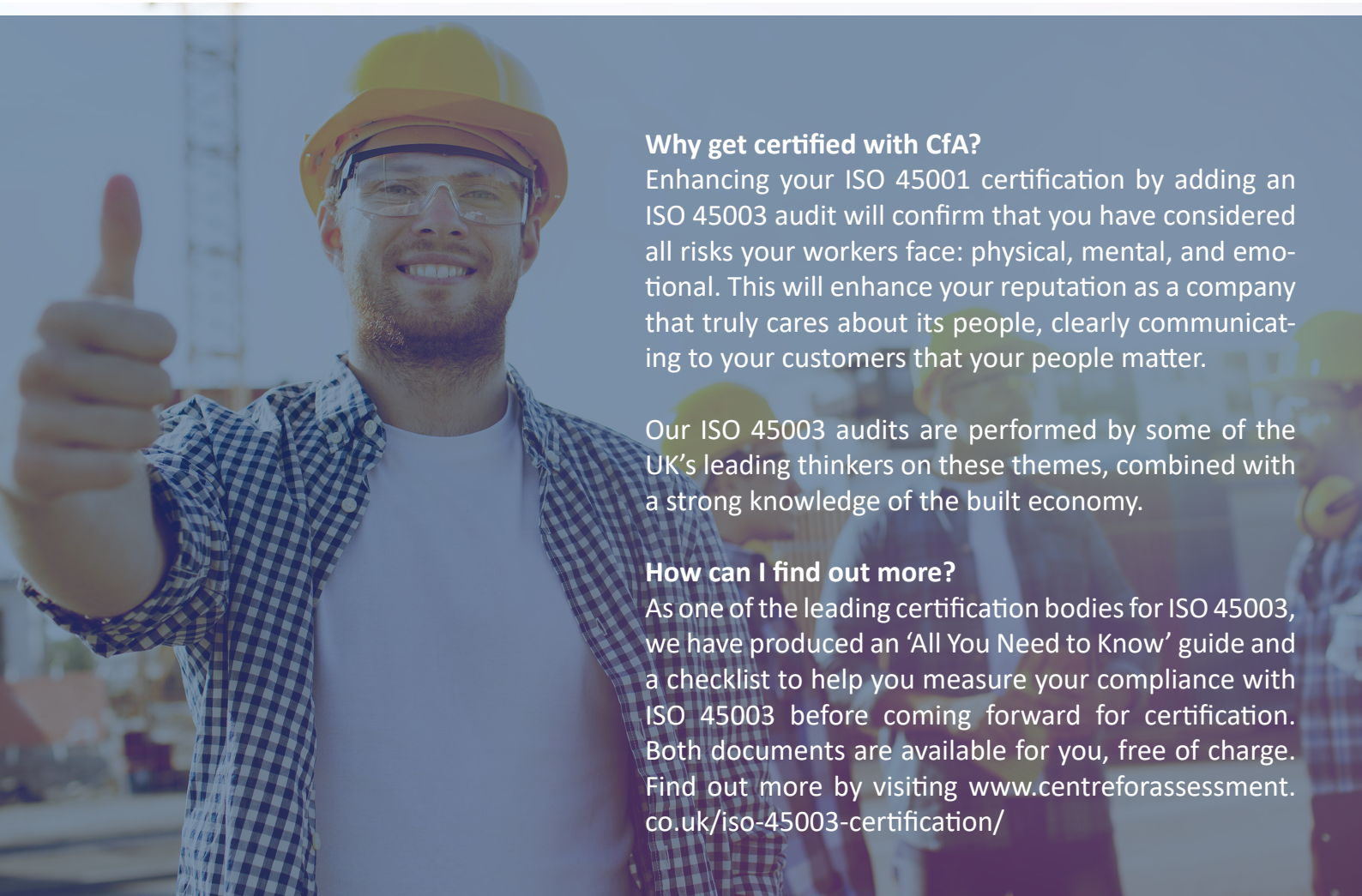
What is ISO 45003?

ISO 45003 is an international Standard that provides guidelines for managing psychological health and safety at work. As a 'child' Standard of ISO 45001, it offers practical guidance on managing psychosocial risks within an Occupational Health and Safety Management System. This means that it was designed to work alongside your ISO 45001 certification, addressing the growing recognition of the impact that a poor work environment can have on mental health and overall wellbeing.

What are the benefits of implementing the requirements of this Standard?

Expanding ISO 45001 certification to cover, in more detail, the mitigation of psychosocial risks in the workplace has many potential positive impacts on organisations. Addressing psychosocial risks, such as stress and burnout, helps create a healthier work environment. Some of the benefits of this can include:

- increased job satisfaction, better mental health and higher employee morale
- more support for the mental and emotional wellbeing of workers, enhancing productivity
- reduced absenteeism and staff turnover, saving costs associated with recruitment and training
- raised awareness of emerging risks to maintain a proactive approach to health & safety.



Why get certified with CfA?

Enhancing your ISO 45001 certification by adding an ISO 45003 audit will confirm that you have considered all risks your workers face: physical, mental, and emotional. This will enhance your reputation as a company that truly cares about its people, clearly communicating to your customers that your people matter.

Our ISO 45003 audits are performed by some of the UK's leading thinkers on these themes, combined with a strong knowledge of the built economy.

How can I find out more?

As one of the leading certification bodies for ISO 45003, we have produced an 'All You Need to Know' guide and a checklist to help you measure your compliance with ISO 45003 before coming forward for certification. Both documents are available for you, free of charge. Find out more by visiting www.centreforassessment.co.uk/iso-45003-certification/

Transfers

Already certified to an ISO Standard and considering alternative options?
We can seamlessly transfer your certification to us.

Choosing to work with us makes sense for your company. With extensive experience in handling transfer clients, we ensure there is no break in your certification and that we meet your expectations. Here are just a few reasons why more organisations are choosing to transfer to us:

- Smooth, hassle-free process
- No transfer fees
- UKAS accreditation
- High-quality audits from specialist auditors
- Dedicated Client Services Co-ordinator
- Professional, client-focused, and reliable service
- Very competitive prices
- Options for integrated audits
- Over 20 years of certification experience

Costs

We understand that cost is an important factor when considering certification. That's why we strive to offer excellent value for money.

During the application process, we will collect detailed information about your company, starting with the number of staff and the number of sites you operate. This information allows us to determine the duration of your audit(s) and provide you with a tailored proposal for certification to your chosen Standard(s).

Our goal is to ensure a transparent and efficient process, giving you confidence in the value and quality of our certification services.



Case Study

Centre for Assessment helps Cara Group build for success



A ten-year working relationship between Centre for Assessment (CfA) and the Cara Group has seen the construction company build firm foundations for its future growth.

The Manchester-based business is a multi-disciplined contractor, with Cara Construction providing services such as civil engineering, groundwork and concrete flooring and utilities, and Cara Brickwork delivering superior brickwork and blockwork projects.

Working as both specialist sub-contractor and principal contractor, the business's partnership approach to working with clients is designed to drive best practice, innovation and safety across all its projects.

Cara began working with Centre for Assessment in 2008 and since then they have worked together on over 20 successful multi Standard assessments. 'Centre for Assessment has played a key role in supporting our success in achieving and retaining the Standards and helping us drive positive change within our Management Systems, culminating in a superior end product for our clients,' says Group QMS manager, Deirdre Brockley.

The group's journey began in 2008 with the introduction of ISO 9001 (Quality Management), followed a year later by both ISO 45001 (Occupational Health & Safety Management) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management).

Specifically, ISO 9001 has helped Cara to meet customer demands, maintain and improve quality standards, and manage its UK supply chain.

ISO 14001, has allowed Cara to identify the environmental impacts of its operations, and to put in place programmes and initiatives to minimise them.

The third Standard, ISO 45001, has helped to formalise our Health & Safety Management System, improving the way in which the business manages risks and legal compliance, and reducing accidents. 'Being a risk-based system, it helps us to anticipate potential hazards and implement preventative measures', explains Deirdre.

'Working to these Standards has proved invaluable and they are also an increasingly essential requirement when it comes to tendering for new work', she says.

'Our Certifications have significantly improved client satisfaction and embedded a culture of continual improvement within the business. It has allowed us to control and improve efficiency, manage growth and create a safe place for people to work.'



Directory of Consultants

Expert support to prepare you for ISO certification

Do you need assistance in developing, implementing or maintaining the requirements of an ISO Standard? If so, we can help.

Are you looking for the right consultant?

While Centre for Assessment remains an impartial certification body and does not provide consultancy services, we understand the importance of expert guidance. That's why we've curated a **Directory of Consultants**—a comprehensive register of independent companies ready to help you develop, implement or maintain the requirements of certification.*

Simply use the search facility on our website to find the right consultant for you.

Enter your location:

 Enter Postcode, City or Area

Search

Sector

Please Select



Standard/Service

Please Select



Area Consultant Covers

Please Select



**Note, the use of any consultant listed is not linked to Centre for Assessment's certification services, nor does it obligate your company to apply with us, ensuring complete impartiality and integrity in our services.*

ISO Training

Implementing and maintaining an ISO-compliant Management System can be daunting. Keeping the System working as it should, completing internal audits and management reviews, and preparing for annual audits requires planning, commitment, and expertise.

With this in mind, CfA offers training to help companies who are preparing for audits and those who are already certified. Our courses can be delivered virtually or at your site, to individuals or to groups by leading ISO specialists.

ISO Awareness Training

For a Management System to work effectively, there needs to be an understanding of its objectives at all levels within a company. Knowing how processes and procedures interact as the foundation of operational activity is vital for a certified System to thrive.

This half-day or full-day session helps workers understand the importance of their role within the Management System, their responsibilities in maintaining compliance, and the benefits it brings to the business.



ISO Internal Auditor Training

Completing effective internal audits is a requirement of all Management System Standards. Our one or two-day programmes are designed to help those new to internal auditing develop the necessary skills, or to refresh the knowledge of those experienced with ISO Standards.

The first part of the session will cover the following topics:

- What is internal auditing?
- Scheduling audits
- Four key stages of the audit
- Planning and carrying out the audit
- Reporting the audit and giving feedback constructively
- Following up on audit findings

The second part of the session will give you the opportunity to carry out a live audit, under the supervision of the trainer.

Talk to us about your training needs and we will talk through the best options for your company.

Who is The Growth Company?

CfA is part of The Growth Company (GC): an award-winning social enterprise with a mission to enable growth, create jobs and improve lives. GC operates a range of regional and national programmes including business support.

Green Economy

E-Mail: info@greeneconomy.co.uk

Tel,: 0161 228 1111



Working with buyers and suppliers of low carbon products and services, Green Economy aims to facilitate the transition to net zero. Its Marketplace promotes companies that contribute to this goal, benefiting our planet and reducing our negative impact.

Green Economy leverages its extensive experience in environmental legislation and market intelligence to help companies navigate this exciting yet complex sector. They also advocate for change, engaging with local and regional policymakers to help green economies thrive.

As Centre for Assessment provides green certification services, we are proud to collaborate with Green Economy as part of The Growth Company.

The Manufacturing Institute

E-Mail: info@themfgi.co.uk

Tel.: 0161 245 4845



Established in 1994, The Manufacturing Institute is dedicated to supporting and improving the manufacturing sector. Here are some key aspects of their work:

1. **Training and Education:** They offer a range of industry-recognized training courses, including Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, Team Leadership Development, and an MSc in Manufacturing Leadership in partnership with Lancaster University.
2. **Consultancy Services:** They provide tailored consultancy services to help manufacturers implement effective strategies and improve operational efficiency.
3. **Workforce Development:** The institute focuses on building a resilient manufacturing workforce through innovative programs, industry leading engagement, and research.
4. **Community and Advocacy:** They advocate for the manufacturing sector, working to enhance individual opportunities, community prosperity, and industry competitiveness.

Their mission is to cause sustainable improvement in the manufacturing industry by delivering high-quality training and consultancy services. Part of The Growth Company, TMI is proud to be a sister company to Centre for Assessment.



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