

Short description of SEPA accreditation

SEPA is granted accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) for laboratory and field activities detailed in the current fixed schedule of accreditation. This can be accessed [here](#) using number 1327 (it is currently version 69, issued on 5 January 2019).

Following an assessment by UKAS the laboratory also holds a flexible scope of accreditation for chemistry and microbiology test methods. This means that SEPA can manage its own internal (flexible) scope of accreditation, assess changes or additions to the existing fixed scope, and report successful determinands as accredited. This process is then assessed annually by UKAS.

The flexible scope process covers the following:

- Incorporation of additional determinands or matrices to existing accredited methods.
- Authorising the use of replacement equipment for existing methods.
- Development of new methods for matrix types covered by the fixed scope and using existing techniques and instruments.
- Inclusion of technically equivalent standard methods and revised standard methods.