



ESSA Accredited – Why it matters

What is it?

ESSA Accredited is an annual company-level qualification, that is independently audited and provides demonstrable proof that the member company is operating at the required level to meet stage one requirements of assessing competence under CDM 2015. It aligns with the requirements of ISO 20121 Sustainable Event Management and other management system standards whilst adopting the principles of SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) member schemes such as CHAS, Safemark and Greenlight.

ESSA Accredited in addition to the above also includes phased rollouts for requirements for sustainability credentials that event businesses are increasingly being asked for including policy statements on the environment and inclusivity.

The ESSA Accreditation also provides for those member companies that are not involved in construction related activities, they can apply for a 'non-construction related' accreditation.

Why do I need it?

In an ever-increasingly competitive environment, clients, venues and organisers are seeking ways to differentiate between suppliers and contractors. They increasingly want to mitigate their risk when buying and recommending services from external suppliers and they want access to an assurance that is industry-wide, recognised and credible.

ESSA took the decision to create this new benchmark in our sector having established ourselves as an association that is based on a code of conduct and a quality charter over the past 12 years.

It is a new standard that would challenge the industry as well as drive the industry into a new era of demonstrable professionalism.

Who has recognised this?

The ESSA Accreditation has been presented to both organisers and venues, and it has received a very warm welcome as it provides peace of mind for both due to its rigorous evaluation of health and safety processes within the ESSA member company. They recognise that the system will mitigate their liability and make ESSA Accredited companies more attractive.

How will exhibitors find out about ESSA Accredited status?

It will be for everyone to promote their status, we would hope that ESSA members will use this as a key differentiator when pitching for work. We will also be promoting the ESSA Accredited status to organisers, venues, brands, marketers, agencies and exhibitors in a targeted campaign over the coming 12 months and thereafter on a sustained basis.

What do I have to do to become accredited?

Firstly, you need to speak to ESSA's Health and Safety Project Manager, Josh Taylor, and register your interest in becoming ESSA Accredited. At this point, you will be appraised of the various areas of assessment and requirements of the accreditation process. If you decide to proceed you be sent a web link to the accreditation portal. From that point, you submit your evidence and the process begins.

How long will it take?

From the point of accessing the link for the accreditation, you will have 7 days to complete the application and submit. The initial assessment will then be completed within 10 days. Depending upon the result of this initial assessment you will be contacted automatically with the outcome. For example, if your application was successful, you will be automatically emailed your ESSA Accredited certificate and logo with hard copies posted separately.

Details of 'failed' or 'require more evidence' outcomes can be provided on request or by accessing the FAQ document in the ESSA Accreditation zone in the member area at www.essa.uk.com

How much will it cost me?

For any ESSA member, the accreditation is free of charge, it is now an integral part of your membership fee. It is not available to non-member organisations.

The ESSA Accredited programme has been made available using a bespoke, online portal that will allow members to manage the process and their progress through to accredited status. If you are ready to become ESSA Accredited, call ESSA now on **01442 285812**.





ESSA Accredited – The process

