

## ANNEX B TO PAPER HSC/03/07

### FEATURES OF AN ACCREDITATION / CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

Issues needing consideration include:

- **the definition of categories of suppliers of safety critical products and services which should be subject to the system:**
  - In working out such a definition, we need to consider to what extent this should link to the definition of '*safety-critical*' as set out in the Railways (Safety Critical Work) Regulations 1994 (and its current review<sup>1</sup>);
  - how far the development of a framework criteria would assist duty holders in assessing which suppliers should be certified (i.e. depending on the safety criticality of the products and services they are supplying); or
  - reliance on duty holders to make their own assessments, as part of their overall risk assessment, according to the risks they create.
  
- **are different approaches needed for suppliers of products as opposed to suppliers of services?**
  
- **what merits certification?** i.e. what would suppliers need to demonstrate to gain certification, and what criteria for granting or refusing certification should be used?;
  
- **who administers the system?** There would be a number of alternatives; the RSSB, other Certifying Bodies, e.g. Lloyds, DNV, CORGI, and the degree of independence sought for accreditation / certification purposes.

Specific details which address all of the above areas, and which will include how accreditation / certification should be kept under review after it is granted, as well as how existing contracts may be dealt with, will need to be finalised in time for public consultation of the preferred option for implementation. We intend to engage the assistance of UKAS for its expertise in the area of accreditation, given its particular status with the UK government.

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<sup>1</sup> See HSC Paper 03/09 for further details.