



**CYBER  
SMART**

# **A GUIDE TO CYBERSECURITY CERTIFICATIONS IN THE UK**

**FROM CYBER ESSENTIALS TO ISO 27001**





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## WELCOME TO CYBERSMART

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We are the automated compliance experts, bringing technology solutions to the ever growing area of cybersecurity compliance and certification.

In this paper we explain the relationship between key certification standards.



## CYBER SECURITY COMPLIANCE

Ever since the Cyber Essentials scheme launched in 2014, SMEs and large companies have used it as a way to strut their cybersecurity expertise and comply with industry regulations. Those conscientious companies that complete the scheme get themselves listed on a searchable register of certified businesses and organisations.

Unfortunately, many companies are in the dark about the Cyber Essentials scheme. According to the Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2019, only 11% of businesses are aware of the Cyber Essentials certification and what it means. That's why we've created this guide to take you through the cybersecurity journey.

The truth is that the journey to cybersecurity compliance isn't as simple as filling out an application. The road can wind from the basics of Cyber Essentials to the independent auditing of Cyber Essentials Plus. Some organisations even choose to go down the root of ISO27001 compliance.



In this guide, we're going to cut through the noise and tell you what the Cyber Essentials scheme is, how you can get certified and help you understand whether or not certification is right for you. We'll also look at how you can add ISO27001 to the mix as well.



## THE CYBER ESSENTIALS SCHEME



Cyber Essentials scheme is a cybersecurity certification that outlines the security procedures a company should have in place to keep their data secure. Firewalls, internet gateways, secure configuration, access control, malware protection, and patch management are just some of the protection measures the certification covers.

Getting certified is simple enough; you achieve certification by completing a self-assessment questionnaire and submitting it through an online portal. You also have to complete a remote technical assessment as well. Once you have applied, a certification body assesses and grades the application.

After completing the scheme, you will have achieved the basic Cyber Essentials certification. At this point, you've shown you get the basics of cybersecurity. If you really want to prove to clients that you have robust cybersecurity procedures, then you will need to be verified by an independent expert. For that you will need to complete Cyber Essentials Plus.



## CYBER ESSENTIALS PLUS

Cyber Essentials Plus is the higher level of certification offered under the Cyber Essentials scheme. To achieve this certification, you need to hold an independent assessment onsite (which is conducted by a qualified auditor).

The auditor will review your cybersecurity measures and verify that your data handling skills are up to scratch. We recommend Cyber Essentials Plus to those who want a thorough assessment of their cybersecurity measures.



Deciding which certification is better depends entirely on your goals. If you're looking to achieve certification just to get on the public register and access certain government contracts, you should opt for Cyber Essentials. However, if you want to really show your customers that data protection is a high priority and work with top-notch clients, Cyber Essentials Plus is the better option.

It is important to note that both levels have the same requirements that you need to fulfil. The difference lies in the type of assessment and the cost of paying for independent auditing to achieve the Plus certification.

You also want to consider how much you have to spend. SMEs are unlikely to have the budget to pay for an independent auditor, so unless data compliance is critical to your sector, the Cyber Essentials certification is usually sufficient.



## ISO27001 AND CYBER ESSENTIALS



If you want to cover all bases, then working towards both the ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials is a viable option. Just because you are ISO27001 certified doesn't mean that you are Cyber Essentials compliant or vice versa. Becoming certified in both is an excellent option for ensuring 360-degree protection, but it requires an investment of more time.

The best way to go the 360-degree protection route is to choose one certification to implement first and then transition to the other. Don't make the mistake of trying to do everything at once!

Which you pick first is entirely up to you. We recommend starting with Cyber Essentials as ISO27001 is more expensive to begin with because you'll have to move from general security management procedures to more intricate cybersecurity processes.



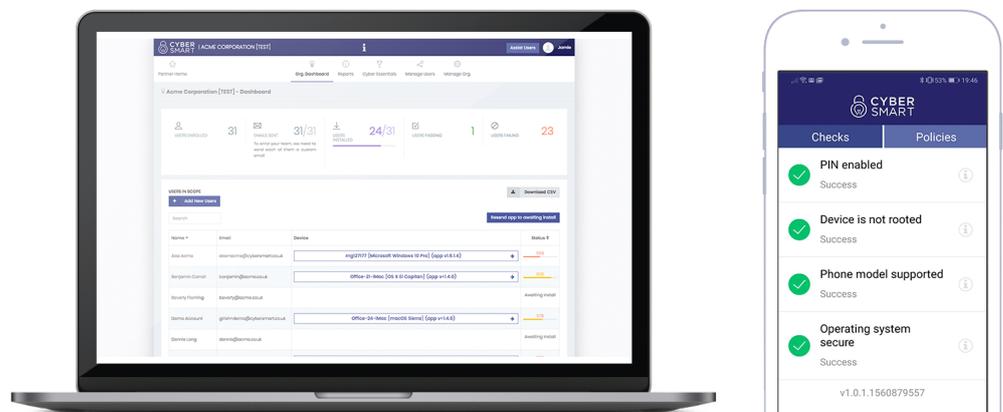
# COMPLIANCE MADE EASY WITH CYBERSMART

Trying to adapt to changing cybersecurity standards is both a challenge and an opportunity. Embrace the mindset that the Cyber Essentials scheme is an opportunity to highlight your company's commitment to protecting client data.

At CyberSmart, we have helped many clients achieve Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certifications. With our mobile and desktop apps, the questionnaire is part-completed with automated reporting to speed up the process.

CyberSmart brings you same-day certification with 100% pass rate.

If you'd like to obtain your Cyber Essentials certification, please visit our website [www.cybersmart.co.uk](http://www.cybersmart.co.uk) or email us on [hello@cybersmart.co.uk](mailto:hello@cybersmart.co.uk) and one of our experts will help you.







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*CyberSmart really helped us on our journey to achieving Cyber Essentials certification. The device compliance is a real help and their support team were always on hand to offer advice relating to both the product and the CE scheme. Once we submitted the completed application we were certified within a few hours - having this all in one place was useful.*

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## Get in touch

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