

UK utility schemes

The Lloyd's Register Group operates schemes on behalf of the utility industry and their regulators to assess independently service providers seeking to work within the contestable markets in the electricity, gas, and water sectors. There are currently three schemes covering these sectors:

- National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS)
- Gas Industry Registration Scheme (GIRS)
- Water Industry Registration Scheme (WIRS).

Lloyd's Register EMEA also operates a multi-utility recognition status for accredited service providers registered under all three schemes.

LLOYD'S
REGISTER
SERVICES

About the schemes

The schemes represent part of an ongoing process to introduce competition into the utility market. Each scheme specifies the minimum criteria against which a service provider must be assessed in order to determine their technical competence and achieve accreditation under the relevant scheme. The assessment criteria for the schemes are intended to enable service providers to be recognised as technically competent, aware of design and safety principles, and capable of installing new connections to high levels of quality and safety.

The schemes are intended to help those wishing to procure the services of accredited service providers.

The safety implications and competencies for the installation of infrastructure in the electricity, gas and water sectors differ as do the scopes of accreditation, as detailed in the following pages.



Summary of business benefits

Accreditation under the schemes provides service providers with the following benefits:

- accreditation recognised by utility providers
- independent assessment and registration process
- assignment of an accreditation mark which will represent the achievement of a high technical, quality and safety standard
- Lloyd's Register Group web site listing of registered service providers
- standardised set of requirements
- single point of contact at Lloyd's Register EMEA.

Lloyd's
Register



National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS)

NERS has been developed to allow independent connections providers (ICPS) to carry out contestable connection work. Any ICP wishing to carry out this work within the contestable market, as defined by Ofgem, must be accredited under this scheme. All distribution network operators (DNOs) on mainland UK recognise this scheme and, provided that the ICPs hold the appropriate accreditations, the ICP can compete for work within the contestable connections market. When awarding contracts to registered ICPs, the developer, who is usually the client organisation, can be confident that once the work has been completed, the host DNO will adopt the connection for the remainder of its lifetime.

All contractors who wish to undertake any part of the contestable connections process including project management, design, cable installation etc require the relevant accreditation.

The categories of accreditation are as follows:

- design
- control and management
- project management
- cable laying (LV, 11kV, 33kV, 132kV)
- cable jointing (dead LV, live LV, 11kV, 33kV, 132kV)

- overhead lines wooden pole and/or steel tower (up to 132kV)
- substation installation (up to 11kV/415V)
- substation installation (132/32kV, 66/11kV, 33/11kV)
- all associated civil engineering works including excavation, cable laying and backfilling.

Gas Industry Registration Scheme (GIRS)

GIRS has been developed to allow utility infrastructure providers (UIPs) to carry out installation, commissioning and connection of gas mains and services to be adopted by gas transporters (GTs). Any UIP wishing to carry out work must be accredited under this scheme.

All GTs on mainland UK recognise this scheme and, provided that UIPs hold the appropriate scope of accreditation, will allow that contractor to tender for, and if successful, undertake installation and commissioning of gas mains and services work up to 7 barg. Under the terms of a pre-start adoption agreement, once the work has been completed, the host GT will adopt the installed gas infrastructure for the remainder of its lifetime.

The scopes of registration are as follows:

- design
- construction/commissioning/connections (routine) [CCCR]
- connections (non-routine, basic) [CNRB]
- connections non-routine (Complex)
- project management
- audit.

Water Industry Registration Scheme (WIRS)

WIRS has been developed to allow contractors to carry out installation and commissioning of water mains and services to be adopted by the water utilities (WU). Any self lay organisation (SLO) contracting to carry out contestable work as defined by OFWAT must be accredited under this scheme.

All the WUs within England and Wales recognise this scheme and provided that the SLO holds the appropriate scopes of accreditation, are able to tender for, and if successful, undertake design, installation and commissioning of water mains and services work. Once the work has been completed, the host WU will adopt the system for the remainder of its lifetime, subject to the SLO meeting all the adoption requirements.

The scope of the Water Industry Registration Scheme is as follows:

- design
- construction/commissioning/connections
- project management.



Multi-Utility Recognition Status (MURS)

Lloyd's Register EMEA also operates a Multi-Utility Recognition Status (MURS) which allows Service Providers holding full accreditation in the NERS, GIRS and WIRS schemes to transfer to the MURS website listing. The integration of the three schemes under MURS provides for rationalisation of the surveillance programme with the associated reduction in costs to the service provider.

For more information, please refer to the MURS factsheet.



How long does accreditation take?

This will vary considerably dependant on the category and scope of accreditation requested, as well as the performance of the company.

How long does accreditation last for?

Accreditation lasts for three years subject to successful surveillance audits by your Lloyd's Register Group assessor. The number of surveillance visits you will receive is dependant upon the number of staff undertaking connection work and your scope or works.

How to apply

You will need to complete an Application Form which can be found on the Schemes' websites as listed below. Once you send the form in to our Utilities team, we will contact you to organise a schedule to suit you.

Guidance notes

There are guidance notes available for all schemes on their relevant websites listed below.

How to find a service provider

If you are looking to find a service provider to undertake works on your behalf then please go to the Lloyd's Register web site

www.lloydsregister.co.uk where lists will provide you with the current approved contractors. Next to each of the contractors' names is a link to their websites which will provide current contact details.

More information

There is more information on all the schemes available on their respective websites:

www.lloydsregister.co.uk/ners

www.lloydsregister.co.uk/girs

www.lloydsregister.co.uk/wirs

Alternatively you can call the Utilities team on
T 02476 518630

www.lloydsregister.co.uk

**For further information
please contact**

UK

Peter Glaholm
Lloyd's Register EMEA,
Hiramford, Middlemarch Office
Village, Siskin Drive,
Coventry, CV3 4FJ, UK
T +44 (0)2476 518630
M +44 (0)7919 031342
F +44 (0)2476 305869
E peter.glaholm@lr.org

Services are provided by members of the Lloyd's Register Group. Lloyd's Register, Lloyd's Register Asia and Lloyd's Register EMEA are exempt charities under the UK Charities Act 1993.

December 2009

**Lloyd's
Register**

LIFE MATTERS