

# National Assurance Standard (NAS)

A Modern Approach to Business Compliance, Certification and Supply Chain Assurance

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## Executive Summary

The NRTAUK National Assurance Standard (NAS) is an independent business certification scheme designed to assess, monitor and support UK businesses through a structured compliance framework.

Unlike traditional certification schemes that focus solely on obtaining evidence and issuing a static certificate, NAS combines rigorous compliance certification, management infrastructure, operational business tools, and live supply chain visibility into a single platform.

The objective is straightforward: to help businesses remain compliant, elevate operational standards, verify real-world competence, and provide buyers with total confidence in their extended supply chains.

NAS has been architected by industry professionals with practical, on-the-ground experience across construction, trades, facilities management, manufacturing, professional services, and public sector procurement.

## Why NAS Was Created

For many years, UK businesses have been forced to secure health and safety certifications, contractor approvals, and supply chain memberships simply to cross the threshold to access work opportunities. While these traditional schemes provide a baseline level of assurance, they have ultimately devolved into bureaucratic revenue-generators for legacy operators. Contractors routinely find themselves paying steep annual fees for little more than a static paper certificate, an email footer logo, and a basic document upload portal.

In the vast majority of instances, businesses receive close to zero practical support or ongoing operational value once the initial snapshot assessment is complete. This leaves companies to navigate shifting compliance landscapes entirely on their own, treating health and safety as a seasonal administrative headache rather than a continuous operational strength.

The legacy system is broken, inefficient, and costly for both sides of the contract:

- **The Contractor's Burden:** A typical commercial contractor may submit the exact same insurance certificate, health and safety policy, and training files 20 to 50 times per year to different buyers via various fragmented, repetitive portals.

- **The Procurement Bottleneck:** A single corporate or public sector procurement team routinely wastes human resource chasing hundreds of individual document renewals every single month, draining administrative hours and exposing the organisation to major compliance gaps when renewals slip through the cracks.

NAS was created to fundamentally disrupt this approach. The scheme bridges the gap between independent compliance verification and everyday operational execution, providing practical tools that actively support businesses to maintain continuous compliance, manage critical operational documentation effortlessly, and demonstrate verifiable, live competence directly to buyers and regulators.

## NAS vs Traditional Certification

We do not need to name the legacy competitors in the market; anyone who has ever filled out a pre-qualification questionnaire knows exactly who they are. The differences below demonstrate why the industry is shifting away from static paper tracking toward continuous, live assurance.

| Traditional Scheme                                      | The National Assurance Standard (NAS)                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Annual snapshot assessment only                         | <b>Annual assessment + continuous compliance framework</b>    |
| Health & Safety checks                                  | <b>Health &amp; Safety checks + deep corporate governance</b> |
| Static paper or digital PDF certificate                 | <b>Verifiable digital certificate + live profile access</b>   |
| Basic document upload portal                            | <b>Live document management infrastructure</b>                |
| Point-in-time snapshot (outdated instantly)             | <b>Continuous, real-time compliance tracking</b>              |
| No commercial or business growth support                | <b>Client Hunter integrated market growth engine</b>          |
| No tender or bidding assistance                         | <b>Tender Flow smart document analysis</b>                    |
| No direct document or risk assessment creation features | <b>RAMS Engine (Risk Assessments &amp; Method Statements)</b> |
| No internal workforce credential tracking               | <b>Workforce Governance matrix tracking</b>                   |
| No live visibility for corporate buyers                 | <b>NAS Live View direct buyer access dashboard</b>            |

## Who Uses NAS?

A common misconception with legacy schemes is that compliance frameworks are built exclusively for Tier 1 construction firms or small local plumbers. NAS is built intentionally to cut across sectors, providing clear outcomes for small trade contractors up to massive corporate entities and public sector buyers. It is explicitly not a construction-only system.

Trades & Subcontractors

Construction & Civils

Facilities Management

Manufacturing & Logistics

Professional Services

Transport & Haulage

Engineering &amp; Utilities

Public Sector Suppliers

SMEs &amp; Corporates

## NAS Certification Levels

People buy distinct commercial outcomes, not abstract assessment categories. The National Assurance Standard is structured across three transparent, flat-rate tiers configured specifically around your immediate commercial objectives. NAS eliminates the unfair, hidden tax of turnover-based pricing models—you should never be financially penalised for growing your business.

### NAS Basic

**£349 / year**

**Outcome:** *For businesses needing professional health and safety certification and supply chain visibility.*

Provides a solid, foundation-level business compliance assessment focused on essential legal and operational requirements. It ensures standard statutory requirements are fully met without unnecessary commercial bloat.

**Key Focus Areas:** Health and Safety Policy, Risk Assessments, Method Statements, Training Records, Insurance Verification, First Aid Arrangements, Fire Safety Arrangements, Business Legitimacy, and Core Legal Compliance.

**One Price:** No turnover bands. No employee bands. No hidden administration charges. No additional user fees. Period.

### NAS Silver

**Outcome:** *For businesses regularly working for local councils, housing associations, utilities and larger main contractors.*

Expands the operational scope of assessment to encompass broader corporate governance, operational transparency, environmental metrics, and systemic management requirements to meet demanding framework thresholds.

**Additional Focus Areas:** Environmental Responsibilities, Working Time Regulations Compliance, Corporate Bribery Prevention, Employment Relations, Rigorous Incident Reporting, and Enhanced Governance Controls.

## NAS Gold

*Outcome: For businesses operating in higher-risk supply chains requiring deeper governance and comprehensive procurement assurance.*

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The pinnacle of the NAS framework, delivering deep corporate risk mitigation and verifying strict alignment with enterprise-grade operational standards, modern regulatory mandates, and high-value tender requirements.

**Additional Focus Areas:** Modern Slavery Controls, Public Procurement Compliance, Advanced Corporate Governance, Structural Business Sustainability, Financial Stability Indicators, and Multi-Tier Supply Chain Risk Management.

## Why Procurement Teams Specify NAS

Procurement teams do not buy paper certificates. They buy risk reduction, corporate insulation, and administrative efficiency. Accepting an annual paper certificate that was signed off eleven months ago is a legacy habit that creates an illusion of safety while exposing an organisation to massive real-time liabilities.

The National Assurance Standard allows public sector buyers, main contractors, housing associations, and corporate commercial teams to completely shift their risk profile. By specifying NAS within your tenders and pre-qualification criteria, your team is empowered to:

- **Verify Real-Time Compliance:** Instantly check that a supplier's core health, safety, and legal frameworks are current and operationally sound—not just a historic point-in-time snapshot.
- **Verify Live Insurances:** Protect your business from multi-million-pound liabilities. If a contractor's Employers' Liability, Public Liability, or Professional Indemnity insurance lapses or is cancelled mid-contract, the system catches it immediately.
- **Verify Real Workforce Competence:** Gain absolute visibility into the training credentials, safety cards, and localized competence levels of the personnel actually arriving on your commercial sites or properties.
- **Verify Workforce Information & Legal Compliance:** Validate that sub-contractors are meeting legal working hour regulations, employment standards, and right-to-work compliance thresholds.
- **Verify Active Project Documentation:** Ensure that site-specific documentation, such as Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS), are explicitly tailored and actively utilised, rather than copied and pasted generic templates.
- **Substantially Reduce Supply Chain Risk:** Insulate your organisation from project delays, commercial failures, and severe regulatory shutdowns by identifying financial and operational red flags early.
- **Generate Bulletproof Audit Trails:** Access instantly retrievable, unalterable digital logs of compliance histories, assessment workflows, and verified evidence to satisfy internal governance and HSE inspectors.
- **Eradicate the Administrative Burden:** Strip out the hundreds of lost human hours spent manually emailing, phone-chasing, and filing renewed safety folders and insurance sheets from subcontractors every month.

That is the conversation procurement actually cares about: closing the liability gap, saving hundreds of administrative hours, and securing an unshakeable supply chain.

## Included Business & Growth Tools

The defining structural difference between NAS and legacy compliance schemes is that a NAS certification unlocks a live suite of high-performance operational tools. These digital solutions are built directly into the platform to help businesses actively execute and maintain their standards day-to-day, rather than treating compliance as a passive paper exercise.

**RAMS Engine**

Build compliant Risk Assessments, Method Statements, COSHH Assessments, HAVS Assessments, and Toolbox Talks. Built with trade-specific logic, electronic signatures, secure digital storage, and automated email/SMS field distribution.

**Document Creator**

Dynamically generate professional, highly tailored corporate policies, procedures, compliance registers, and safety forms. Automatically syncs with your central business profile to reduce generic, unhelpful documentation.

**Tender Flow**

Demystifies commercial and public procurement. Automatically processes extensive tender documents, flags hidden operational risks, highlights missing data points, and supports bids for growing contractors.

**Client Hunter**

A proactive revenue and growth engine. Helps businesses map regional markets, identify high-intent commercial buyers, qualify live contract opportunities, and match corporate capabilities to active project pipelines.

**Workforce Governance**

Streamlines complete personnel oversight. Centralises training matrices, monitors individual competence safety thresholds, tracks card expirations, and provides a clean overview of subcontractor legality.

**Trade Link**

A secure B2B networking directory designed to foster commercial collaboration. Connects vetted companies, certified suppliers, and professional services to support local procurement and joint ventures.

## NAS Live View: Real-Time Supply Chain Assurance

Modern supply chain management is plagued by administrative gridlock. NAS Live View completely re-engineers this relationship by granting authorised buyers and procurement teams direct, automated access to live, verified contractor compliance status. Instead of trusting an outdated certificate issued months ago, procurement teams can instantly verify that a contractor's insurances are paid up, their health and safety policies are active, and their workforce is fully qualified. This live oversight radically mitigates commercial liability for the buyer, protects projects from regulatory shutdowns, and strips out redundant administrative overhead for the contractor.

## Conclusion

The NRTAUK National Assurance Standard moves far beyond the legacy model of transactional compliance. Certification should not be an arbitrary annual tax that offers zero operational utility to the business paying for it. By combining strict, independent verification with modern management software, live automated tracking, and robust business growth tools, NAS establishes a practical, highly efficient compliance standard that serves both contractors and procurement teams alike.

### **National Register of Training and Assurance UK**

To learn more about achieving the National Assurance Standard or integrating NAS Live View into your corporate supply chain:

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