

# bsi. Cyber Essentials & Cyber Essentials Plus

Build resilience against cyber attack



## What is Cyber Essentials?

Cyber Essentials is a simple but effective cybersecurity certification programme designed to enable you to put in place the security procedures and measures to help protect your organization and to keep your data safe and secure. It is backed by the UK government and can be an effective way to demonstrate your commitment to cybersecurity.

The Cyber Essentials certification scheme was updated in April 2020 to deliver a more streamlined path to certification. It offers a straightforward solution to showcase your cybersecurity credentials whether your business is large or small.

What's more, the process is quick which can be particularly beneficial if you have a tight deadline to meet.

The scheme focuses on five key areas as follow:

- Firewalls
- Internet gateways
- Secure configuration
- Access control
- Malware protection
- Patch management

...making excellence a habit.™



There are in fact two schemes which fall under the umbrella of Cyber Essentials. They are **Cyber Essentials** which follows a self-assessment process, and **Cyber Essentials Plus** which may be more suitable for larger, more complex organizations. The key differences are summarized below:

## What are the differences between Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus?

Cyber Essentials	Cyber Essentials Plus
Using a self-assessment checklist, organizations assess themselves against five basic security controls. A qualified assessor then verifies the information provided.	A qualified assessor examines the same five controls, (which may be done remotely), testing that they work through a technical audit.
Certificates have a twelve-month expiry date.	Certificates have a twelve-month expiry date.
Gives peace of mind and a level of protection against a variety of the most common cyber attacks.	Gives peace of mind and a level of protection against a variety of the most common cyber attacks.
Cyber Essentials is available at a fixed cost.	The cost of a Cyber Essentials Plus assessment will depend on the size and complexity of your network.
The process is streamlined and simple to follow.	Verification is carried out by an external qualified assessor which adds a deeper level of scrutiny. This may also be beneficial if you do not have a technical IT background or you have a complex company structure.

## What does the scheme cover?

The protection areas the certification covers are as follows;

- Firewalls
- Internet gateways
- Secure configuration
- Access control
- Malware protection
- Patch management

On successful completion you will be awarded a certificate to show you have achieved the required level and demonstrated you have cybersecurity in place.

## Who is Cyber Essentials for?

This agile certification programme has been developed for organizations of any size. For SME's Cyber Essentials offers a straightforward, fixed cost and quick process which can be particularly attractive.

It's important to note that if you plan to bid for central government and MOD contracts which involve handling sensitive and personal information or the provision of certain technical

products and services, you will require Cyber Essentials Certification. It can also help support your business in its efforts to become a supplier to the wider public sector.

Cyber Essentials is not however a certification scheme uniquely designed for UK businesses. Organizations located outside the UK are also able to achieve certification.

## What are the benefits of achieving certification?

Cyber Essentials can help your organization to become more cyber resilient in a number of ways:

- Certification gives you peace of mind that your defences will protect against the vast majority of common cyber attacks
- Reassure customers that you take cybersecurity seriously
- Attract new business with the assurance that you have cybersecurity measures in place
- Reassure customers that you are working to secure your IT against cyber attacks
- You have a clear picture of your organization's cybersecurity level
- Could help you become a supplier to the public sector as some UK Government contracts require Cyber Essentials certification

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## ISO 27001 (Information Security Management) and Cyber Essentials

Your organization may have ISO 27001 certification, but it doesn't mean you are Cyber Essentials compliant or vice versa. Becoming certified in both is an excellent

option for ensuring robust protection but does require an investment of more time. If you want to do both, BSI can help unify your certification.

## Why choose BSI?

As trusted developers of best practice, we empower you to keep your business safe through a diverse portfolio of information security solutions. Whether it's standards, consulting services, product testing, certification or training that you need, we'll help you achieve your security goals.

Since 1995 when we originated BS 7799, the first information security standard (now ISO/IEC 27001) we have been leading the way with information security best practice and we continue to shape future solutions. No matter where you are in your information security journey, we can help you identify the most appropriate approach to protect your information and build resilience.

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