



### *Registration, Certification, and Accreditation to ISO Standards*

We wish to clarify the terms used in relation to Quality Standards and, in particular, to FQM's services.

In the case of ISO 9001:2000 "**Certification**" refers to a written assurance by an external body that has reviewed a company's management system and confirmed that it complies with the requirements of the standard. "**Registration**" means that the external body then records the certification in its client register, and issues a registration certificate. The organisation's management system has therefore been both certified and registered. This is what FQM does.

"**Accreditation**" refers to the certification body itself and means it is formally recognised by UKAS as one that can carry out certification to the ISO standards in specified business sectors. Note that a certification body accredited by UKAS is restricted to auditing existing management systems. Helping organisations to design and implement such systems is beyond the remit of Accredited Bodies. UKAS requires Accredited Bodies to do *just* audits, and *not* consultancy. British Standards Institute recognises that there are both Accredited and Independent certification bodies.

Most, by far, of our clients' needs are met by our consultancy, Certification and Registration services. Some clients, perhaps driven by their customers' demands, elect to pay for the additional Accredited Agency audit as well.