

The most **Frequently Asked Questions** about Cyber Essentials



THE
**CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE**
FOR THE NORTH WEST

What is Cyber Essentials?



**CYBER
ESSENTIALS**

Cyber Essentials is a simple and effective Government backed scheme, supported by industry experts and the Cyber Resilience Centre.

The scheme helps you put measures in place to protect your organisation, regardless of size or sector, against a range of the most common cyber-attacks.

This includes protecting against threats such as malware, ransomware and phishing.

The first tier is a self-assessment option against five basic security controls, which is then verified by a qualified assessor.

This includes whether you are using firewalls, have a secure network, apply regular software updates and have secure user and administration accounts.

The second tier is Cyber Essentials Plus. This involves physical tests of your network and computers by independent professionals.

Successful accreditation of Cyber Essentials Plus provides a higher level of assurance that your organisation has a strong cyber resilience regime with correctly implemented controls in place to maintain a robust defence against cyber-attacks.

Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

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Why should your business get a Cyber Essentials certificate?

Cyber Essentials helps you demonstrate a commitment to cyber security to your customers and clients with a certificate and badge to display on your premises and website.

Having the certificate makes your organisation more resilient against the most common forms of cyber-attacks. Gives your business peace of mind knowing that your data is protected and your security systems are robust, should a cyber-attack occur. Allowing you to reach further business opportunities, as Cyber Essentials will enable you to tender for specific contracts in government.

Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

How and where can I become Cyber Essentials certified?

At the Cyber Resilience Centre, we work with a small group of Trusted Partners who are official providers of Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus Certification. Any members or businesses in the North West should get in touch with us and we can refer you to the Trusted Partner in your region who can help you get certified.



Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

Does Cyber Essentials certification have an expiry date?

Once you have achieved your Cyber Essentials certification, your certificate is valid for 12 months. The UK government recommends that businesses renew their certification annually.

How much does the Cyber Essentials certification cost?

The cost of Cyber Essentials (verified self-assessment) follows a tiered pricing structure which adopts the internationally recognised definition for micro, small, medium and large enterprises.

- Micro organisations (0-9 employees) £300 + VAT
- Small organisations (10-49 employees) £400 + VAT
- Medium organisations (50-249 employees) £450 + VAT
- Large organisations (250+ employees) £500 + VAT



Cyber Incident Response Plan

[Download here](#)

Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

Do businesses in the recruitment sector need Cyber Essentials?

For recruiters, your business processes large quantities of valuable data, making you a big target for cybercriminals. Cyber Essentials can help protect your business from most cyber threats.

With 82% of UK recruitment firms adopting some form of hybrid working, you need to ensure any staff working from home are secure. Cyber Essentials can provide your business with the guidance to make the switch safely.

Your recruitment business is built on trust – your clients and candidates need to know their personal data is safe in your hands. Cyber Essentials certification provides government-backed proof your business is taking cyber seriously and keeping your data safe – crucial when looking to retain current customers and win new clients.



Small Business Guide to Cyber Security

[Download here](#)

Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

Why would a law firm need Cyber Essentials?

A law firm's greatest asset can often be its reputation, and it only takes 1 cyber incident for this reputation to be damaged beyond repair. However, if you are Cyber Essentials certified then you are safe from over 80% of cyber attacks.

Cyber Essentials also helps reassure your Clients that you have good cyber hygiene and practices in place, especially when it comes to data protection, data handling and GDPR. Cyber Essentials can also support your Lexcel certification.

Does my Business need Cyber Essentials Certification for Government Contracts?

Cyber Essentials is mandatory for businesses looking for specific government contracts. Without Cyber Essentials, you will not be able to bid for such contracts. Often these contracts will involve delivering certain IT products and services and handling of personal information.

Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

Does a manufacturing business need to think about Cyber Essentials?

Manufacturing is an attractive target for cybercriminals. So much so, 47% of UK manufacturers report suffering a breach that cost them time or money. And, with more back-office staff working from home on unsecured networks and devices, the risk is only growing.

Cyber Essentials is a government-backed certification that shows your business takes cybersecurity seriously. This makes you an attractive partner and is reassuring new and existing customers.

Depending on what your business manufactures, government contracts could be an important source of revenue. If this is the case, then your business will need a valid Cyber Essentials certificate in order to bid for them.



**Cyber
Health
Check**

Would your business pass a
Cyber Health Check?

[Find out more](#)

Frequently Asked Questions about Cyber Essentials

Do I need to have Cyber Essentials before getting Cyber Essentials Plus?

Yes - If your business wishes to become Cyber Essentials Plus certified, you must first pass Cyber Essentials. In addition to this, you must take the Cyber Essentials Plus audit within 3 months from the date that your Cyber Essentials certificate was awarded.

My business has Cyber Essentials, do I need Cyber Essentials plus?

There is no mandatory requirement for your business to obtain Cyber Essentials plus - If you wish to bid on government or MoD contracts then you will need Cyber Essentials as a bare minimum. However, having Cyber Essentials Plus shows your company is going the extra mile to ensure security and data protection.

However, if you do not require this then Cyber Essentials can make your organisation more resilient against the most common forms of cyber-attacks and demonstrate to your Clients that you are committed to being cyber secure.

Talk to us

Whether you just want informal advice, to learn more about cyber essentials or our services and membership. We are happy to help.

Get in touch with our expert team who can help you on your journey towards cyber resilience.

CALL US: 0161 706 0940

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