

Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus: what's the difference?

Essentials

Cyber Essentials is built to be straightforward. It checks that an organisation's IT infrastructure and internet-connected computers are protected against common vulnerabilities.

How is it implemented?

- Once you have the five basic controls in place, you will fill out a self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ).
- Our team of experts can guide you every step of the way, and we will check that your business has the five controls in place.
- We will implement the software or policies required to guarantee a pass if we spot any weaknesses, then send your questionnaire to our accredited assessor (CyberSmart) to check against the five controls.
- If your business is compliant, you will be issued the certificate (usually within 24-hours). The certificate is valid for 12 months from the pass date. However, please be aware this must be renewed annually.
- Once your business is certified, you will be issued with Cyber Essentials branding for your marketing material and receive automatic cyber security insurance cover up to £25,000.



Essentials Plus

Cyber Essentials Plus requires the same five security controls but differs in one crucial aspect. The 'Plus' credential includes an independent assessment carried out by a licensed auditor.

The check includes:

- Testing anti-malware software by sending emails.
- Checking for outdated software on a device.
- Testing how different users access files.

When the auditor body considers your technical controls acceptable, you will be certified. As a result, you'll earn a place on the UK government's directory of Cyber Essentials Plus compliant organisations.

The cost of the Essentials Plus certification will depend on the size of your business and whether you require our cyber security consultancy service to get you to the Plus standard. We use one of the very few certifying bodies to carry out a remote Essentials Plus assessment. This keeps costs down.

Plus offers absolute assurance that correct controls are in place through the use of an impartial third party. Customers and partners don't have to take your word that you are cyber secure – they can rely on the expertise of a professional.



While Cyber Essentials certification provides a strong framework to address the basics of cyber security, it's not always enough.

Achieving **Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation** goes beyond the basics and provides a more in-depth and thorough assessment of a business's cyber security posture.

Upgrading to Cyber Essentials Plus

One of the key benefits of upgrading to Cyber Essentials Plus is that it helps businesses to demonstrate their commitment to security and data protection. In today's world where cyber attacks are on the rise, having a strong stance on cyber security is essential. Obtaining Cyber Essentials Plus certification shows that a business is taking proactive measures to secure their systems and data.

Why choose Cyber Essentials plus



Improved Cyber Security

Cyber Essentials Plus certification can help businesses improve their cybersecurity posture by identifying vulnerabilities and implementing appropriate controls to mitigate risks. This can help prevent cyber attacks and data breaches that could result in financial losses, reputational damage, and legal liabilities.



Compliance with regulations

Many sectors, such as the financial sector, is subject to numerous regulatory requirements, including those related to data protection and cybersecurity. Cyber Essentials Plus certification can help businesses demonstrate compliance with these regulations and avoid fines and other penalties. Cyber Essentials PLUS certification is increasingly becoming a requirement in many sectors.



Competitive advantage

Cybersecurity is becoming an increasingly important consideration for customers when choosing providers. Cyber Essentials Plus certification can help businesses stand out from their competitors by demonstrating their commitment to protecting customer data and ensuring the integrity of their systems.



Increased customer trust

Cybersecurity incidents can erode customer trust. Cyber Essentials Plus certification can help businesses reassure their customers that they take cybersecurity seriously and have appropriate measures in place to protect their data.



Reduced insurance premiums

Some insurance companies offer reduced premiums to businesses that have achieved Cyber Essentials Plus certification, as it demonstrates a commitment to cybersecurity and reduces the risk of cyber-related claims.

Ready to upgrade to Plus?

 soconnect.co.uk  hello@soconnect.co.uk  0333 240 1824

Download our handy pre-audit checklist to help you prepare:
[CE Plus Audit Checklist](#)