

# The Survey Association PAS128 Utility Mapping Accreditation (PUMA) Scheme

Your questions answered





# Frequently asked questions



Q

## What is PAS128:2022?

A

PAS128:2022 is the specification for requirements for detection, verification and location of underground utilities. It provides guidelines for survey methodologies, data capture, plus accuracy and reporting standards.

Q

## What is PUMA? (PAS128 Utility Mapping Accreditation)

A

PUMA is an independent accreditation scheme designed to assess the ability of utility surveying companies to deliver surveys that comply with the PAS128 specification.

Q

## Why is PUMA needed?

A

PAS128 is a complex specification with requirements around staff competency, risk management, survey methodologies, data management and reporting. Without independent arbitration, a company can claim to deliver surveys to the PAS128 specification with no proof of their compliance. PUMA ensures that all accredited companies meet the same high standard, providing a benchmark for good practice.

Q

## What are the benefits of PUMA?

A

PUMA accreditation:

- Demonstrates compliance with PAS128 standards
- Provides clients with confidence in quality and accuracy of survey data
- Differentiates accredited companies from non-accredited ones
- Enhances professional reputation and commitment to continuous improvement

# Frequently asked questions

**Q** | **How does PUMA improve safety and efficiency?**

**A** | PUMA accredited survey companies must adhere to rigorous standards for utility surveys. This increases the likelihood of finding buried utilities and reduces the risk of their clients and others striking underground assets, which can cause injury or death, as well as costly project delays.

**Q** | **Can clients trust data provided by PUMA accredited survey companies?**

**A** | Yes, these companies have been independently audited to ensure their compliance with PAS 128 and that their outputs and working practices comply with the specification. The TSA application process ensures all members are competent and are rigorous in their processes.

**Q** | **Who developed PUMA and who administers it?**

**A** | PUMA was developed by LRQA and The Survey Association (TSA).

**Q** | **Who can apply for PUMA accreditation?**

**A** | PUMA is open to all eligible members of TSA who carry out utility surveys.

**Q** | **What are the key stages of the PUMA accreditation process?**

**A** | Accreditation lasts for three years and involves three stages:

1. Office systems assessment	Evaluation of the applicant's office systems to ensure compliance with PAS128 standards
2. Site assessment	On-site evaluation to verify the practical application of PAS128 specifications in real-world surveys
3. Annual surveillance visits	To ensure ongoing compliance with the standards, processes and systems against which accreditation was granted



## About LRQA

LRQA is the leading global assurance partner, bringing together decades of unrivalled expertise in assessment, advisory, inspection and Cybersecurity services.

Our solutions-based partnerships are supported by data-driven insights that help our clients solve their biggest business challenges. Operating in more than 150 countries with a team of more than 5,000 people, LRQA's award-winning compliance, supply chain, Cybersecurity and ESG specialists help more than 61,000 clients across almost every sector to anticipate, mitigate and manage risk wherever they operate.

In everything we do, we are committed to shaping a better future for our people, our clients, our communities and our planet.

## Get in touch

Visit **lrqa.com** for more information or email **enquiries@lrqa.com**



LRQA  
1 Trinity Park  
Bickenhill Lane  
Birmingham  
B37 7ES  
United Kingdom