

# Civil news: changes to the specialist quality mark standard

News story

We are making changes to the Specialist Quality Mark standard from 1 October 2022.



Updates are being made to the Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) standard which will be coming into force on 1 October 2022.

The new SQM standard will apply to all applications for a desktop audit and requests for a full audit made after 1 October.

We are making these changes following a review and the details are set out on our quality standards page on GOV.UK.

## **What is the SQM standard?**

The SQM is a quality assurance standard owned by the Legal Aid Agency. It is designed to ensure providers:

It is a requirement for legal aid contract holders to hold either the SQM or the Law Society's equivalent 'Lexcel' accreditation.

## **Further information**

[Legal Aid Agency quality standards](#) – to download guidance

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