

Frequently asked questions

Why has BAE Systems Naval Ships introduced a new compliance management qualification process?

As the regulatory environment we operate in becomes more complex, it is crucial that we have a robust system in place to support the collection and maintenance of supplier qualification data. Suppliers and the ADS trade organisation have told us that the process used by prime contractors (including BAE Systems Naval Ships) for collecting supplier qualification information was too complex, costly and time consuming. The introduction of an online system that's shared with other organisations will simplify the process of submitting compliance information and will minimise the impact of multiple requests from other defence industry prime contractors.

What is the role of Hellios?

Hellios Information Limited is a UK based organisation. The team has extensive experience in the collection and maintenance of supplier compliance data on behalf of a number of UK and global companies.

BAE Systems Naval Ships has appointed Hellios to collect and administer supplier qualification data on our behalf. Hellios will collect and check the compliance data provided by suppliers and ensure this data is maintained on a system called JOSCAR. Hellios is an approved supplier of all of the defence prime contractors involved in this activity. Hellios does not assess supplier suitability for compliance approval, this decision always remains with each of the prime contractors.

Will compliance information be available to all participating prime contractors, including all those I don't supply?

One of the benefits of the system is that supplier qualification information will be available to all defence prime contractors in the scheme. This will reduce multiple requests for the same information.

Can any supplier apply for JOSCAR compliance approval?

No, qualification is currently by invitation only.

Will my competitors have access to the information we provide?

No, other suppliers will not have access to the information you provide.

Will I be asked to provide pricing information on my organisation's products and services?

No, your organisation will not be asked to provide any commercial information of this nature through the JOSCAR process.

If I'm required to apply for Stage 2 Approval, how do I pay the fee to Hellios?

Hellios will provide full details of the payment options available.

How long is JOSCAR approval valid for?

It is essential that information is kept up-to-date, and so all suppliers will be required to complete a renewal process each year to ensure your qualification remains valid. Suppliers will be able to review their existing information when renewing, which should make the process quick and efficient.

How long does it take to complete compliance approval?

If your organisation is asked to complete Stage 1 and Stage 2 approvals, it typically takes up to one working day to enter the required information into the JOSCAR system. However, the time required to collate the documentary evidence can vary depending on the size of an organisation. Suppliers will be fully supported by Hellios throughout the compliance approval process.

What happens if I choose not to sign up?

Failure to complete the JOSCAR Registration and Qualification process will result in your organisation being classified as non-compliant with the BAE Systems Naval Ships Supplier validation and approval process. This will be taken into consideration when assessing suppliers for potential new business opportunities.

'Minimise the impact of multiple requests from other defence industry prime contractors'

Joint Supply Chain Accreditation Register (JOSCAR)



Making it easier for suppliers to do business with us

The introduction of JOSCAR provides us and the other participating prime contractors with a single and shared source of supplier compliance information.

BAE Systems Naval Ships is committed to introducing new practices that make it easier for you to do business with us. Together with other prime defence contractors, we've introduced a new supplier compliance management process. This system, known as the Joint Supply Chain Accreditation Register (JOSCAR), is designed to standardise our requests for supplier compliance information.

JOSCAR is also an integral part of our sourcing process. Our sourcing specialists use JOSCAR to find compliant suppliers to be considered for new business. Achieving JOSCAR compliant status may create new business opportunities for our suppliers.

The benefits for our suppliers

- A simple online process to submit compliance information for BAE Systems Naval Ships that also reduces the likelihood of duplicate requests.
- Dynamic questions which are tailored to the products and services being provided by you.
- An online profile which can be maintained and updated throughout the year to ensure your ongoing compliance with BAE Systems Naval Ships supplier approval requirements.
- JOSCAR approval also means you also won't have to provide assurance information each time you bid for business with BAE Systems Naval Ships.



JOSCAR key points

- Working together with our peers in other defence organisations to assess supplier compliance is a positive step towards minimising duplicated administration, reducing barriers to entry, and improving the ease of doing business with BAE Systems.
- Suppliers complete a single profile that is shared with all participating procurement organisations.
- On-going JOSCAR development is governed by the buyer members.
- JOSCAR questions and system content is reviewed regularly and when regulation/legislation changes.
- All supplier data is validated and suppliers have access to help, support by telephone and e-mail.

How to gain compliance approval

There are two stages of data submissions in the JOSCAR processes. Some suppliers will only need to do Stage 1. However, due to the nature of certain products and services some suppliers will also be subject to additional requirements, represented as Stage 2.

Stage 1 Registration

BAE Systems Naval Ships will send suppliers an invitation to complete an online questionnaire. Our external partner Hellios Information Management Ltd will then contact you with the details on how to complete the online questionnaire. This is free of charge and this information will allow us to determine whether your organisation is also required to complete the Stage 2 assessment.

Stage 2 Qualification

Stage 2 is a more detailed online assessment, which requires you to supply additional supporting evidence. Stage 2 incurs an annual fee of up to £575 (plus VAT); depending on the size of your organisation. Small organisations with low Turnover do not pay for JOSCAR Qualification. Fees are payable directly to Hellios and are used to cover the operating costs of the system. BAE Systems Naval Ships and each of the participating prime subscribers involved in the programme also pay an annual subscription fee to contribute to the operating costs of the system.

Once Stage 2 Qualification has been achieved, BAE Systems Naval Ships may wish to undertake additional Business Unit / Programme specific assurance activities. This is aligned with BAE Naval Ships Approval requirements and will be undertaken as a separate activity not related directly to JOSCAR.

Timescales for Registration & Qualification

Typically it takes up to six weeks to complete the JOSCAR Compliance Approval Process and attain Stage 2 Qualification status.

It should be noted timescales may vary depending upon the size and complexity of the organisation. In exceptional cases timescales may be accelerated to meet business priorities. If you are being asked to expedite the Registration and Qualification process then please refer to your BAE Systems Naval Ships Supply Chain representative who will confirm completion deadlines.