



Audit – from a contractor’s perspective

Future Amtec specialises in the surveying and mapping of drains, sewers, water mains, pipelines, boreholes and other hollow structures. In many cases their asset investigation systems enable clients to survey structures that are unsafe for physical entry. Critical underground services can then be identified without the need for disruption and excavation.

The UK Utility industry is a key market with the water companies comprising the bulk of their business. This focus initially led them down the route of registering on UVDB and then Verify, the pre-qualification and audit scheme respectively. Future Amtec was recently acquired by Future Environmental Services, who have incorporated all services under their portfolio and have now also completed the same audit process.

“Health and Safety is a priority for Future Amtec and is integral to our business. We are keen to demonstrate our capabilities to clients, and the audit helped promote our credentials.

The audit process was excellent and well worth the fee alone, highlighting areas we need to improve and pull our socks up. The output tells both the client and us how good or not we are”.

Martyn Hopkinson
Managing Director
Future Amtec



The challenges

The nature of the surveying services Future Amtec provides means they frequently operate onsite in potentially hazardous situations. Due to the risks involved with the service the client will normally require a comprehensive vetting process. This is to ensure the contractor has the appropriate capabilities to carry out the work and help mitigate risk.

This can be a costly and time consuming process from both perspectives of buyer and supplier. Whilst good suppliers are always keen to demonstrate their capabilities, there is the frustration that there is often a huge overlap in the information commonly being requested by different clients.

The Verify Audit

The Audit scheme was founded by 4 UK Utilities in 2001. The key concept was to try and develop a shared approach to supplier assessment and establish best practice. The content was developed by H&S professionals and was initially targeted at contractors providing high risk services on their sites.

Today there are over 60 buyers, consisting of both utilities and major contractors, with access to over 1700 contractor Verify reports. The audit process and content continue to evolve with various types of assessment now available. Suitability is dependant upon company size and the nature of their service offering.

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Achilles specialises in the auditing of suppliers for pre-qualification, focusing upon health & safety, environment and quality issues. It also offers social and ethical supplier audits, that support corporate social responsibility requirements, and operates a carbon footprint programme.

Audits are a key component of supplier pre-qualification, especially for higher risk contracts. The assessment provides a physical validation of evidence regarding a supplier’s capability, competence and compliance within agreed parameters. These can include industry standards, recognised best practice or country-specific laws. The whole buying community can access a detailed report following the audit.

“Whilst initially we were dubious about having to pay to be assessed, we are now converted and believe there is a strong value proposition. The process is an excellent management tool, helping to identify areas where we can improve and also benchmark progress over time. The audit also put us in the shop window, demonstrating our capabilities for our key customers.

The Verify community is continually growing and we hope more Utilities and Major Contractors sign up to access our information. Not only will this increase the value proposition for a supplier, but should help reduce the number of requests for additional pre-qualification information. The level of detail and quality of the assessment should be a big draw. ”

Martyn Hopkinson
Managing Director
Future Amtec

Future Amtec's Audit

Future Amtec completed the Category B2 assessment, which is split into 2 parts. The assessor first visited the Chesterfield Office to conduct the management system review. This included discussing the operational procedures and processes, which were then scored.

For the 2nd half of the audit the assessor spent another day on a working site in Widnes, where a CCTV survey of foul and land drains was taking place. The purpose of the site visit is to ensure that the management systems had been effectively implemented; with evidence to support that the correct processes are being followed.

“Whilst we were pleased with our audit scores, we recognised there was an opportunity to improve our environmental management system. The audit helped identify some new initiatives that we have implemented in the last 12 months. Having just undertaken our re-assessment we are delighted to have improved on all elements” said Martyn Hopkinson, Managing Director, Future Amtec.

Management System Evaluation		Onsite Assessment - Tanhouse Lane	
✓ Health and Safety	- 90.4%	✓ Health and Safety	- 92.7%
✓ Environment	- 86.2%	✓ Environment	- 87.9%
✓ Quality	- 87.5%	✓ Quality	- 100.0%

Benefits to a supplier

- Comprehensive audit process, including review of management systems and working site visit
- Practical advice and feedback provided by auditor
- Identify opportunities to develop and improve processes
- Demonstrate capabilities to all key clients through one assessment
- Ability to benchmark capabilities against competitors

Find out how your company could benefit from our audit service, by contacting us today using the details shown below:

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