



## Examples of when the new five-year accreditation period for the Specialist Quality Mark will apply to applications for accreditation and reaccreditation

### Overview

The Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) accreditation period increased from 3 years to 5 years on 1 October 2025. The new accreditation period applies to any SQM where a Pre-Quality Mark Audit or Post-Quality Mark Audit took place on or after 1 October 2025. SQM accreditation awarded or renewed in these circumstances lasts 5 years instead of 3 years.

This document provides worked examples of when the new 5-year accreditation period does and does not apply to help individuals understand these rules during the transition to the new accreditation period.

### Examples

Scenario	Outcome
Applicant passes Desktop Audit on 1 May 2025.  Applicant applies for Pre-Quality Mark Audit on 15 August 2025.  The Pre-Quality Mark Audit takes place on 3 October 2025.  The Provider awarded the SQM on 8 October 2025.	The SQM is awarded for <b>5 years</b> from 8 October 2025
The Provider applies for Pre-Quality Mark Audit on 1 August 2025.  The Pre-Quality Mark Audit is due to take place on 15 September 2025.  However, the audit is delayed and takes place on 5 October 2025 instead.	The SQM is awarded for <b>5 years</b> from 10 October 2025.



<p>The Provider has a number of Corrective Actions to complete.</p> <p>The Provider completes the required Corrective Actions and is awarded the SQM on 10 October 2025 .</p>	
<p>The Provider applies for Post-Quality Mark Audit on 1 August 2025.</p> <p>The Post-Quality Mark Audit takes place on 15 September 2025.</p> <p>The Provider has a number of Corrective Actions to complete.</p> <p>The Provider completes the required Corrective Actions and is reaccredited with the SQM on 16 October 2025.</p>	<p>The SQM is awarded for <b>3 years</b> from 16 October 2025.</p>
<p>The Provider applies for a Post-Quality Mark Audit on 15 August 2025.</p> <p>The Provider's current accreditation expires on 25 September 2025.</p> <p>The Post-Quality Mark Audit takes place on 15 September 2025.</p> <p>The Provider has a number of Corrective Actions to complete.</p> <p>The Provider completes the required Corrective Actions and is reaccredited with the SQM on 13 October 2025.</p>	<p>The SQM is awarded for <b>3 years</b> from 13 October 2025.</p>