

The LCAS Standard

The open specification for estimating, presenting and comparing the cost of accredited product testing placed on the European Union market, using the formula $FP = BC \times CF$.
Published and maintained by Multicert Sp. z o.o.

FP = BC × CF

1 Scope & purpose

LCAS is an open standard for estimating, presenting and comparing the cost of accredited product testing placed on the European Union market. It defines a single formula so that any quotation can be built by a laboratory and read by a client on identical terms. Figures derived under LCAS are indicative net benchmarks, not binding quotations.

2 Definitions

Base Cost (BC)	The intrinsic cost of performing one determination by a given method, before complexity scaling.
Complexity Factor (CF)	A dimensionless multiplier (1.0–5.0) reflecting how much a specific job departs from the routine case.
Sample	A physical specimen submitted for testing.
Material variant	Each distinct material or colour requiring its own determination.
Determination	A single analytical measurement of one parameter on one sample or variant.

3 The formula

The final price of a test is the product of its Base Cost and its Complexity Factor:

$$FP = BC \times CF$$

4 Base Cost (BC)

Base Cost is derived from the resources a method consumes, loaded with laboratory overhead:

$$BC = (\text{Labour} + \text{Materials} + \text{Equipment}) \times (1 + \text{Overhead})$$

5 Complexity Factor (CF)

The Complexity Factor is the product of five dimensions, each scored between 1.0 and 2.0, with the result capped at 5.0:

$$CF = D1 \times D2 \times D3 \times D4 \times D5 \text{ (max 5.0)}$$

D1	Time criticality	Standard vs rush turnaround	1.0–2.0
D2	Equipment & technology	Routine instruments vs specialised chambers / MS	1.0–2.0
D3	Labour & expertise	Standard analyst vs senior / specialist effort	1.0–2.0
D4	Sample complexity	Number of materials, colours, matrices, prep	1.0–2.0
D5	Regulatory & risk	Accreditation scope, witnessed / audited work	1.0–2.0

6 Multiplier rules

Samples x variants	A package price is multiplied by the number of samples and, for chemical tests, by the number of material variants / colourways — each is a separate determination.
Rush turnaround	Expedited turnaround applies a surcharge, typically +50%, recorded as a distinct line.
Order-level fees	Per-order service or handling fees (commonly ~€97) are stated separately, not folded into BC.

7 Data-source hierarchy

Where a published Base Cost is required, sources are used in this order of preference: (1) published accredited-laboratory price lists; (2) published broker prices (e.g. Measurlabs); (3) public tender / procurement figures; (4) category ranges from compliance sources; (5) a stated estimate, labelled as such with lower confidence.

8 Versioning & governance

LCAS is published and maintained by Multicert Sp. z o.o. Each edition carries a version and date. Figures are reviewed at least twice a year and on any material change to a referenced standard or to published market pricing. The current edition is v1.0 (June 2026).

CITE AS

LCAS v1.0 — Laboratory Cost Assessment Standard. Multicert Sp. z o.o., 2026.
<https://lcas.info/standard>

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