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## **A CALIBRATION LABORATORY'S INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.**

### ***Why Accreditation?***

Laboratories and manufacturers in every field depend on the technical competence of calibration providers to ensure accurate and consistent measurements. The measurement may involve something as simple as determining the correct volume and weight of a substance or as complex as determining the trajectory of a trip to Mars. Because proper calibration depends on trained and qualified people, it is imperative for calibration providers to supply proof of their expertise. International Accreditation Service's calibration laboratory accreditation program provides the evidence needed by your customers. IAS accreditation provides an independent verification of the technical competence of laboratory personnel, and the effectiveness of the quality management system, of calibration providers. IAS accredits calibration providers to the internationally accepted standard ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* (ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005).

### **Proficiency Testing and Interlaboratory Comparisons**

Proficiency testing and interlaboratory comparisons (PT/ILC) are two closely related methods that a laboratory may use to demonstrate technical competence. PT/ILC provides independent feedback concerning a laboratory's actual performance and can be used as a tool to monitor improvement efforts.

IAS strongly recommends and supports the use of PT/ILC as an improvement tool. PT/ILC is required for IAS laboratory accreditation, and IAS is working with its national and international partners to ensure that necessary and appropriate PT/ILC is available for laboratories in all fields.

### ***Benefits of IAS Accreditation***

IAS accreditation helps calibration laboratories meet their customers' demands for evidence of technical competence.

The IAS calibration laboratory accreditation program provides the following benefits:

- **Confidence:** IAS accreditation to internationally accepted criteria provides confidence in the quality of services provided by calibration laboratories.
- **Transparency:** IAS accreditation is independent and objective, and is based on a completely transparent accreditation process.
- **Competency:** IAS accreditation provides evidence that laboratories render competent and consistent services in line with international standards.

- Outstanding quality of assessments: IAS places tremendous importance on the training and qualifications of its assessors. This leads to high levels of assessor competency and increased technical expertise.
- Enhanced knowledge base: With its excellent knowledge base and team of technical experts, IAS helps to improve the quality of accredited calibration laboratories.
- International recognition by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC).

### ***The Accreditation Process***

IAS accredits calibration laboratories by verifying technical competence and assessing their quality management systems to ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005.

The process for becoming an IAS-accredited calibration laboratory begins with the calibration laboratory's submittal of an application, applicable fees, and a quality management system manual. An IAS accreditation officer is selected to partner with the laboratory throughout the accreditation process, beginning with a review of the quality manual and the requested scope of accreditation. Once the quality manual has been reviewed and approved, IAS selects an assessment team based on the requested scope of accreditation. The assessment team conducts an on-site assessment of the laboratory and develops an assessment report. Once a laboratory has satisfied IAS accreditation requirements and demonstrated competence, an accreditation certificate is issued.

### ***About IAS***

International Accreditation Service, a subsidiary corporation of the International Code Council, assesses and accredits competent calibration and testing laboratories and inspection bodies. The IAS testing and calibration laboratory accreditation programs are recognized internationally by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). IAS is one of only five accreditation bodies worldwide, and the first in North America, to achieve recognition of its inspection body accreditation program by APLAC.

In operation since 1975, IAS is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation and one of the oldest accreditation bodies of its type.

### ***For More Information***

To learn more about IAS calibration laboratory accreditation, please visit [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org), call toll-free 1-866-427-4422, or e-mail [info@iasonline.org](mailto:info@iasonline.org).