

IAS Fabricator Accreditation Program

from International Accreditation Service, Inc.



**Continuous
special inspection or
IAS accreditation?
It's your choice!**



INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.
Leading Accreditors Since 1975

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE
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Building departments can ensure fabricators meet code requirements by requiring accreditation from IAS, a subsidiary of the International Code Council® (ICC®).

Building departments have a mandate to ensure the quality of construction and the safety of the public by promoting good building practices and by enforcing the requirements of building codes. When it comes to structural fabrication, the *International Building Code®* (IBC®) is explicit on the building department's responsibility as regards inspection. Section 109 of the IBC requires that all construction or work for which a building permit is required be subject to inspection. Under Section 1704 of the IBC, certain types of construction, such as structural welding, concrete and high-strength bolting, have been deemed to be so critical that continuous special inspection is required. This puts an added responsibility on a building department that may not have sufficient resources but is still required to make sure that these special inspection requirements are being fulfilled. International Accreditation Service, Inc.™ (IAS™) provides its fabricator accreditation program to help building departments fulfill their oversight responsibilities while ensuring that the code requirements are being effectively enforced.

Code Requirements for Fabricators

In Chapter 17 of the IBC, the building official is provided with alternatives for approving the work of fabricators. The first option is to have a special inspector who has been approved and who has demonstrated competence to the satisfaction of the building official, inspect the fabricators' work on a continuous basis at the job site. The second alternative comes under Section 1704.2.2, which permits fabricators that have been registered and approved to perform the work without special inspection. IAS has operated a program that has been accrediting fabricator

inspection programs for over 30 years. IAS accreditation of qualified fabricator inspection programs facilitates registration and approval by building officials. In fact, IAS is the only organization qualified to evaluate and accredit fabricators for compliance with Section 1704.2.2 of the IBC and Section 1701.7 of the *Uniform Building Code*™.

Special Inspection Alternative

Although there are certification organizations that claim to approve fabricators, only IAS has code enforcement and the responsibilities of the building department as its primary purpose for operating a fabricator accreditation program. IAS recognizes that its fabricator inspection program must be equivalent to continuous special inspection. This is why IAS demands that its accredited fabricators operate under a robust internal quality system with periodic unannounced inspections by IAS-accredited inspection agencies. Our goal is to assure the building official that IAS is continually verifying that its accredited fabricators maintain code compliance.

The IAS fabricator inspection program requires an initial on-site assessment of the fabrication facility by our own staff, not a third-party contractor, and provides continuous oversight with quarterly on-site inspections by an IAS-accredited inspection agency. IAS also requires that key staff in all accredited fabricator inspection programs meet specific personnel guidelines, such as having a Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) on staff and requiring that welders maintain certification by the American Welding Society.

Our knowledge of the codes, our technical expertise and our experience in quality control systems is what gives building departments confidence in the IAS Fabricator Accreditation Program.

Benefits of using IAS-Accredited Fabricators

- Compliance with ICC, BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI and other codes
- Strict accountability for all construction performed
- Assurance that the fabricator has a well-managed quality system and qualified people

- Fabricators that are aware of code requirements
- Confidence in working with an ICC subsidiary and an organization that has served building departments for a quarter of a century
- Working with an organization you can trust and one that shares your commitment to code compliance

Better Qualified to Serve

IAS is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation that has been providing accreditations for the construction industry since 1975. Initially, our services were offered under ICBO Evaluation Service, Inc. When the nation's model code agencies consolidated their operations as the ICC, the IAS subsidiary was created to exclusively operate all accreditation activities related to ICC work. Today, IAS offers accreditations in numerous industries and is one of the leading accreditation bodies in the United States, accrediting fabricator inspection programs, testing and calibration laboratories and inspection agencies.

Finding IAS-Accredited Fabricators

Structural steel and concrete fabricators that have registered their inspection program and have been accredited by IAS are listed on our web site at www.iasonline.org. On this site, you may download a complete list of accredited organizations, or search for an individual company by category.

More Information

Widespread adoption of the IBC throughout the United States has made it more important than ever that fabricators prove that their fabrication processes meet code requirements. We know that when it comes to code compliance, the final approval rests with you. IAS welcomes the opportunity to answer any questions about how our fabricator accreditation program can help you enforce the code. Please call us for more information. Our toll-free number is 1-866-427-4422. If you prefer, you can send us an e-mail to info@iasonline.org, or visit our web site at www.iasonline.org.