

IAS Inspection Agency Accreditation Program

from International Accreditation Service, Inc.



Your customers demand technical competence.

Can you prove that you have it?



INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.
Leading Accreditors Since 1975

IAS accreditation helps inspection agencies prove to their clients and potential clients that they are competent, impartial, and have credentials that are internationally accepted.

Inspections by independent agencies are in high demand because of increased international trade and concerns about product failure, risks to health, and the need to meet legal, regulatory and customer requirements. As demand increases for their services, inspection agencies look for a competitive edge by securing international accreditation.

In today's competitive environment, it is essential for an inspection agency to be able to provide customers with evidence that it operates under high standards and has first-rate qualifications. IAS accreditation proves that inspection bodies have been assessed against internationally-recognized standards and have demonstrated their competence, impartiality and performance capability.

IAS Accreditation Provides Solid Evidence

IAS-accredited inspection agencies have the evidence their clients demand for:

- **Independence, impartiality and confidentiality** – The inspection agency is independent and free from any undue pressures which might affect the agency's judgment. Accreditation also ensures the complete confidentiality of clients' proprietary information.
- **Quality** – The inspection agency operates under a quality system that is fully documented, effectively

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implemented and regularly monitored to ensure its continuing suitability and effectiveness.

- **Trained personnel** – The inspection agency employs qualified, experienced personnel with thorough knowledge of inspection requirements.
- **Proper facilities and equipment** – Agencies have proper facilities and equipment so that inspection services can be carried out efficiently. Accreditation also ensures that inspection equipment is properly calibrated and regularly maintained.
- **Proper inspection methods** – The inspection agency uses approved, documented procedures for its inspections, and has a system for maintaining inspection records.
- **Compliance with international standards** – IAS accreditation provides proof of compliance with ISO/IEC 17020, the internationally-recognized standard for inspection agencies.
- **Due diligence** – In the event of legal action, IAS accreditation provides proof that due diligence was used in selecting an accredited agency to carry out independent inspections.
- **Highest qualifications** – IAS accreditation provides reliability and integrity, as determined by an internationally-recognized accreditation body which has been accrediting inspection agencies since 1975.

The Accreditation Process

The IAS inspection agency accreditation program is based on international standard ISO/IEC 17020.

The process of accreditation begins with the inspection agency's submittal of an application, applicable fees, and a quality manual. An IAS accreditation officer is selected to partner with the inspection agency throughout the accreditation process beginning with a review of the agency's quality system manual. Once the manual has been reviewed and approved an on-site assessment is

conducted at the agency's office. Here, IAS assessors review records, effectiveness of the agency's quality system, and interview members of the agency's staff. In addition, technical field assessments are conducted by one or more IAS technical assessors to evaluate the agency's technical competence. Once an inspection agency has satisfied IAS accreditation requirements and demonstrated compliance with the international standard, an accreditation certificate is issued. Continual evaluation of accredited agencies is done through periodic surveillance assessments, feedback from regulators and through follow-up re-assessments which are required to keep the accreditation in good standing.

List of Accredited Inspection Agencies

IAS-accredited inspection agencies and their scopes of accreditation are listed on the IAS web site at www.iasonline.org. On this site you may download a complete list of accredited organizations or search for the accreditation of an individual company.

About IAS

International Accreditation Service, a subsidiary corporation of the International Code Council, assesses and accredits inspection agencies and testing and calibration laboratories. The IAS inspection agency accreditation program is one of only five such programs worldwide, and the first in North America, to achieve recognition by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. In operation since 1975, IAS is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation and one of the oldest accreditation bodies of its type.

More Information

To learn more about IAS inspection agency accreditation, please visit www.iasonline.org, call toll-free 1-866-427-4422, or e-mail info@iasonline.org.