

# INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.

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## **IAS Policy on Accreditation Certificate Validity**

This policy describes the accreditation process of International Accreditation Service (IAS) and provides an explanation of IAS' non-use of expiration dates on some of its certificates.

### **Overview**

All accreditation certificates appearing on the IAS website are considered current and valid. Expired or delinquent accreditations do not appear on the IAS website.

### **IAS Accreditation**

International Accreditation Service (IAS) is one of the leading accreditation bodies in the United States. IAS is a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatory of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ([APLAC](#)) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ([ILAC](#)). IAS is a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) signatory of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation ([PAC](#)) and the International Accreditation Forum ([IAF](#)).

IAS accredits a wide range of companies and organizations including governmental entities, commercial businesses, and professional associations. Accreditation by IAS provides objective evidence that an organization operates at the highest level of ethical, legal, and technical standards. IAS accreditation programs are based on recognized national and international standards that ensure domestic and/or global acceptance of its accreditations.

### **Accreditation Certificates**

IAS publishes all of the accreditation certificates that it has awarded on a dedicated section of its website ([www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org)) called *Accreditation Search*. Each certificate (listing) contains the name, location, contact information, scope of accredited services and accreditation commencement dates for each organization that has been assessed and been found to be competent in their respective fields.

### **Expiration of Accreditation**

Most certificates have a "commencement date" only as IAS has decided not to use expiration dates for the reasons stated below.

Accreditation is a dynamic process. Accreditation certificates are frequently updated to keep pace with requests to expand accredited scopes, changes in location or personnel within accredited entities, revisions of technical standards and many other factors. Accreditation requires a commitment by each accredited organization to continued compliance with the codes, standards and IAS accreditation criteria. IAS uses several ways to determine ongoing compliance including; onsite assessments, surveillance assessments, surveys, proficiency testing, feedback from regulatory bodies and feedback from users of IAS-accredited entities.

### **Assessments, Standards and Confirmation of Accreditation**

Most organizations are assessed onsite at least once every two years or at a frequency specified in regulatory documents or mandated by authorities having jurisdiction. For laboratories, inspection agencies and product certification agencies, all standards and methods referenced in the scopes are the most current version, unless otherwise specified. For building departments, fire prevention agencies, third-party building department service providers, the codes and standards listed in the scope of accreditation are those editions adopted by the relevant jurisdictions.

All accreditation certificates appearing on the IAS website are considered current and valid so that users of the listings can be assured that they are getting the most up-to-date information. To confirm the validity of any certificate or for the most current accreditation information, please go online to [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org) and click on *Accreditation Search* or contact IAS directly at (562) 364-8201.