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 official IAS website are considered current and valid. Expired or delinquent accreditations do not appear on the IAS website.

Accreditation Certificates
IAS publishes all of the accreditation certificates that it has awarded on a dedicated section of its website (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 because 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. IAS 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. Where IAS has chosen to use expiration dates, certificates of accreditation are valid for 90 days beyond the stated date on the certificate. Occasionally, an organization’s accreditation may be under current review or the re-issuance of the certificate may be delayed for administrative reasons. In this case, the accreditation certificate will remain valid and posted on the official 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) for the accreditation of testing laboratories, calibration laboratories and inspection bodies. IAS is also a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) signatory of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for the accreditation of Product Certification Agencies.

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 competence and technical standards. IAS accreditation programs are based on recognized national and international standards which facilitates domestic and/or global acceptance of its accreditations.

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, product certification agencies and management system certification bodies, all standards and methods referenced in the scopes are the most current versions, 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 to be 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 and click on Accreditation Search or contact IAS directly at (562) 364-8201.