



International
Accreditation Service, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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www.iasonline.org

Contact: Greg West
1-866 (427-4422), ext. 3267
Cell (562) 201-0959

BSD SpecLink[®] Adds Specification Language for IAS Accredited Fabricators



Building Systems Design, Inc. (BSD) has added specification language for IAS[®] accredited structural steel fabricators (AC172) to the BSD

SpecLink-E[®]—Fall 2011 release. BSD's SpecLink-E is a sophisticated master guide specification system subscribed to by architects, engineers and specification writers nationwide. The new language includes IAS in the SpecLink-E[®] fabricator qualifications in Section 06100 (Structural Steel) and to Section 01425 (Reference Standards).

International Accreditation Service[®] (IAS[®]), a subsidiary of the International Code Council[®] (ICC[®]), accredits steel fabricators to provide evidence that fabricators meet the requirements in the *International Building Code*[®] (IBC[®]) Chapter 17. "The new specification language in BSD SpecLink[®] enables architects, engineers and specification writers to have confidence in the quality and code compliance of fabricators when they specify IAS accredited structural steel fabricators for projects," said IAS President Chuck Ramani.

The IAS fabricator accreditation program (AC 172) has long been used by code officials to approve fabricators. It got its start in 1958 when the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) began evaluations to help code officials approve fabricators based on requirements in the *Uniform Building Code*[®] (UBC[®]). When ICBO consolidated with the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) and Southern

Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) in 2003 to form the ICC, IAS was formed as an ICC subsidiary to continue the accreditation services. Oversight for the IAS fabricator accreditation program is provided by code officials that make up the majority of the IAS board of directors and accreditation committee. “The final approval for any fabricator is always the building official,” said Ramani.

To achieve IAS accreditation, fabricators must pass a comprehensive assessment. The IAS accreditation process begins with an assessment of the fabricator’s quality manual and is followed by an on-site assessment of the shop. During the on-site assessment, IAS assesses the facility, manufacturing equipment, incoming raw materials, fabrication processes and traceability of the items fabricated. The fabricator is required to follow written procedures for welding, bolting, nondestructive testing, contract review, document control, purchasing, product traceability, process control, inspection and testing, nonconforming work, corrective actions, handling, storage and delivery of materials, internal audits, control of quality records, and training. Fabricators are also required to have an in-house quality manager, a quality control inspector (certified by AWS, CWB or ICC) and certified welders. All welding personnel must use their own identifying number, letter or symbol for traceability, and 100 percent of the weldments must be visually inspected. IAS issues a certificate of accreditation once a fabricator has met the program criteria. Accredited fabricators are subject to two unannounced audits annually by third-party IAS-accredited inspection agencies to verify if each fabricator’s inspection program is being effectively implemented and that they are maintaining compliance with code requirements.

Accreditation is formal, independent verification that a program, institution or company meets established quality standards and is competent to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. Accreditation has been used for over 50 years as the definitive means of evaluating organizations and is now utilized by all the world’s major economies and many developing economies. In addition to building departments, governmental regulatory agencies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Highway Administration require accreditation to verify the technical competence of organizations.

BSD develops and sells innovative software tools for the architecture, engineering and construction markets of North America. Founded in 1983, the company creates, maintains and supports advanced specification writing, cost estimating and BIM

interoperability products used by thousands of architects, engineers and design professionals nationwide. BSD's current line of BSD SoftLink[®] products is gaining wide acceptance as state-of-the-art software because of the innovative ways that data is linked and displayed. All of the BSD SoftLink products are designed to share information with each other. BSD was acquired by the Construction Specifications Institute in November 2010. For more information about BSD, visit www.bsdssoftlink.com or call 888.273.7638.

IAS is a recognized accreditation body and a nonprofit, public benefit corporation. IAS accredits fabricator inspection programs, inspection programs for metal building manufacturers, testing and calibration laboratories, product certification agencies, special inspection agencies, inspection agencies, training agencies, curriculum developers, field evaluation bodies, building departments, fire prevention departments and building department service providers. A subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), IAS is one of the leading accreditation bodies in the United States and a signatory to several international mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs). For more information about IAS, visit <http://www.iasonline.org> or call 866-427-4422.

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