About the International Accreditation Service (IAS)

- An internationally recognized accreditation body.
- A subsidiary of the ICC.
- Providing accreditation services since 1975.
- Accredits a wide range of companies and organizations including governmental entities, commercial businesses, and professional associations.
- Provides objective evidence that an organization operates at the highest level of ethical, legal, and technical standards.
- Programs are based on recognized national and international standards that ensure domestic and/or global acceptance of its accreditations.
Accreditation is used worldwide to verify the competence of companies and organizations.

Accreditation involves a formal assessment performed by a third-party (accrediting organization) to determine if a company or entity has demonstrated competence and meets specified requirements to perform specific tasks.
Accreditation Verifies Competence

Examples:

- a **testing laboratory** is competent to test a specific product.
- a **fabricator** is competent to build a specific product.
- an **inspection agency** is competent to inspect a specific product.
IAS accreditation is recognized by numerous regulatory and professional organizations, including:

- City, county and state building departments including: Clark County Nevada Building Department, New York City Department of Buildings, New York State Division of Code Enforcement and Administration, State of Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management, Tallahassee Florida Building Department, West Palm Beach Florida Building Department, Plano Texas Building Department, Rochester Hills Michigan Building Department, Pismo Beach California, San Diego Chapter of ICC, Roseville California Building Department, and many others
- California Department of Transportation
- Chickasaw Nation
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- United States Marines
- United States Navy
- Metal Building Manufacturers Association
- International Fire Door Inspectors Association
- International Code Council
- ICC Evaluation Service
- Fire Stop Manufacturers Association
IAS—International Recognition

- IAS is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) for Testing, Calibration and Inspection.
- IAS is a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) signatory of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) for Product Certification.
IAS Accreditation

Provides global recognition through ILAC/APLAC MRAs
IAS Accreditation Programs

Fourteen Accreditation Programs

1. Testing Laboratory
2. Calibration Laboratory
3. Inspection Agency
4. Fabricator Inspection Program
5. Building Department Service Provider
6. Special Inspection Agency
7. Product Certification Agency
8. Field Evaluation Body
9. Training Agencies
10. Curriculum Development
11. Personnel Certification Body
12. Metal Building Manufacturer Inspection Program
13. Building Department
14. Fire Prevention & Life Safety Department
Testing Laboratory Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC Standard 17025: 2005
- Verifies laboratories are technically competent
- Provides evidence that products are safe, reliable and meet the requirements of codes and standards
- Provides global recognition through ILAC and APLAC
Calibration Laboratory Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC Standard 17025: 2005

- Provides independent verification of the technical competence of the people, and the effectiveness of the quality management system

- Ensures accurate and consistent measurements

- Provides global recognition through ILAC and APLAC

- http://www.iasonline.org/Calibration_Laboratories/

Bryza Wind Laboratory Aero-Subsonic Wind Tunnel (ASWT1).
Inspection Agency Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC 17020:1998, the internationally recognized standard for inspection agencies

- In demand due to increased international trade and concerns about product failure, risks to health, and the need to meet legal, regulatory and customer requirements

- Provides proof of competence, impartiality, confidentiality and proper inspection methods

- [http://www.iasonline.org/Inspection_Agencies/](http://www.iasonline.org/Inspection_Agencies/)
Fabricator Inspection Program Accreditation

- Based on Chapter 17 of the International Building Code
- Provides building departments with assurance that fabricators meet code requirements
- Accredits structural steel, concrete and wood fabrication inspection programs
Fabricator Inspection Program Accreditation

- Provides for periodic on-site auditing of fabricators by third-party accredited inspection agencies
- Requires certified welding inspectors and certified welders to be on staff
- Requires documentation of fabrication procedural and quality control manuals
- No cost to Building Department
- http://www.iasonline.org/Fabricator_Inspection_Program/
Building Department Accreditation

- The first recognized accreditation program for building departments in the United States
- Sets a standard of excellence for the profession
- Provides increased confidence that the building department is meeting the community’s needs for building safety
- Helps building department become more efficient and provide improved customer service
- http://www.iasonline.org/Building_Department_Program
Special Inspection Agency Accreditation

- Based on Chapter 17 of the International Building Code

- Provides building departments with verification that special inspection agencies are qualified to work in their jurisdiction

- Verifies agency’s quality management system, employee qualifications, competence, independence, facilities and equipment, procedures and system for inspections

- [http://www.iasonline.org/Special_Inspection/](http://www.iasonline.org/Special_Inspection/)
Product Certification Agency Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996, General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems
- Verifies that certification practices, including testing, inspection, product surveillance and product labeling have been properly evaluated
- Ensures certification marks have full acceptance in the marketplace and by governmental agencies
- Great value for companies pursuing accreditations as a testing laboratory, inspection agency and product certification agency - combines three assessments into one
- http://www.iasonline.org/Product_Certification_Agencies/
Field Evaluation Body Accreditation

- Provides a formalized accreditation process for agencies conducting evaluations of electrical equipment.

- Request for evaluation typically comes from a building department, code enforcement official, fire marshal or similar regulatory body.

- Determines compliance with applicable codes or standards of one-of-a-kind, limited production, used or modified products that are not listed or labeled under a full listing or certification program.

- [http://www.iasonline.org/Field_Evaluation_Bodies/](http://www.iasonline.org/Field_Evaluation_Bodies/)
Personnel Certification Body Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC Standard 17024 *General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*

- For organizations that certify individuals within a specific subject area against objectively defined criteria.

- A benchmark that distinguishes qualified personnel certification bodies.

- The value of accreditation extends through the service network – from certification body, to certification holder, to the employer, to the public.

- [http://www.iasonline.org/Personnel/](http://www.iasonline.org/Personnel/)
Training Agency Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC Standard 17024 quality principles and guidelines established by the American Psychological Association (APA) Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing
- Training programs must be based on recognized and published professional standards of practice
- Requires an approved curriculum development process
- On-site assessment by IAS trained assessors and technical experts
- Requires formal procedures and policies for product development, administration and maintenance
- http://www.iasonline.org/Training_Agencies/
Curriculum Development Accreditation

- Based on ISO/IEC Standard 17024 quality principles and guidelines established by the American Psychological Association (APA) Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing
- Addresses the needs of curriculum developers for vocational training
- Promotes practical and applicable training programs
- On-site evaluation by IAS trained assessors and technical experts
- Requires annual reports and reassessment
Metal Building Manufacturer Inspection Program

- Based on International Building Code and IAS Accreditation Criteria AC472
- Accreditation process includes periodic, unannounced inspections
- Assures that suppliers have passed the stringent audit requirements
- Assures that the product is being designed by professional engineers who have demonstrated knowledge of building systems and applicable codes.
- Requires that all Letters of Certification, design calculations and drawings be clearly communicated and stamped by a fully qualified design professional.

http://www.iasonline.org/Metal_Building_Systems/
Based on IAS Accreditation Criteria for Third-Party Permitting, Plan Review and Inspection Service Providers (AC402).

Applies to non-governmental providers of building department services

Goal is to provide accreditation to independent providers of building department services based on quality management principles and best practices, to ensure that the outstanding safety record of buildings in the U.S., is maintained.

http://www.iasonline.org/AC402/
Fire Prevention Department

- First recognized accreditation program for fire and life safety departments in the United States
- An independent assessment of department’s administrative, code enforcement, and quality management systems
- Jointly by IAS and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE)
- [http://www.iasonline.org/Fire_Life/](http://www.iasonline.org/Fire_Life/)

Florida Division of State Fire Marshal Director Julius Halas (center) accepts a plaque from IAS President Chuck Ramani (left) and IAS Chair of the Technical Advisory Council for Fire Prevention Departments Ronny Coleman (right).
More Information

- www.iasonline.org
- Program information
- Accreditation criteria
- Accreditation process
- Rules and procedures
- Applications
- News
- Meetings and events