

IAS Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program

from International Accreditation Service, Inc.



**How does your
building department
approve special
inspection agencies?**



INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.
Leading Accreditors Since 1975

a subsidiary company of the International Code Council®



Building Departments look to the IBC Special Inspection Agency Accreditation program from the International Accreditation Service (IAS) for verification that special inspection agencies are qualified to work in their jurisdictions.

Chapter 17 of the *International Building Code*® (IBC®) requires special inspections of materials, fabrication, installation, erection or placement of components and connections requiring “special expertise.” Under the IBC, final authority for recognition of special inspection agencies rests with the building official having jurisdiction.

Because most building departments do not have the staff or expertise required by the building code to perform these types of inspections, they depend on special inspection agencies employed by the building’s owner or design firm to perform these tasks. To ensure that these agencies are qualified to do the inspections and that the quality of materials and workmanship meets the requirements of the *International Building Code*, building departments ask for IAS Special Inspection Agency Accreditation.

Benefit of Using IAS Accredited Special Inspection Agencies

Code Compliance – IAS accreditation provides the building official with a valid process to determine compliance with Chapter 17 of the *International Building Code*.

IAS Accreditation Provides Evidence That

- The inspection agency operates under a quality management system that is regularly monitored by

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IAS to ensure its continuing suitability and effectiveness.

- The inspection agency employs qualified, experienced personnel with thorough knowledge of inspection requirements.
- The inspection agency is independent and free from any undue pressures that might affect the agency's judgment.
- The agencies have proper facilities and equipment, so that inspection services can be carried out effectively.
- The inspection agency uses approved, documented procedures for its inspections and has a system for maintaining inspection records.

The Accreditation Process

The IBC Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program is based on the requirements of the IBC and the applicable portions of ISO/IEC 17020, *General Requirements for the Operation of Various Bodies Performing Inspection*.

The process of accreditation begins with the inspection agency's submittal of an application, applicable fees, and a quality management 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 management 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 and the agency's quality system, and interview members of the agency's staff. In addition, field assessments at construction sites are conducted by one or more IAS technical assessors or subject matter experts (SMEs), to evaluate the agency's

technical competence. Once an inspection agency has satisfied IAS accreditation requirements, an accreditation certificate is issued. Continual evaluation of the agency's quality system is done through periodic on-site surveillance assessments and feedback from regulators, which are required to keep the accreditation in good standing. IAS accreditation is based on the assessment of a special inspection agency's inspection procedures, the competence of its inspection staff, and its reporting procedures.

List of Accredited Special Inspection Agencies

IAS-accredited special 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 special inspection agencies, inspection agencies, building departments, fabricators, and testing and calibration laboratories. The IBC Special Inspection Agency Accreditation program is a unique service that has been tailored to the needs of the building official. 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 Special Inspection Agency Accreditation, please visit www.iasonline.org, call toll-free 1-866-427-4422, or e-mail info@iasonline.org.