

# **INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.**

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## **A TESTING LABORATORY'S INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.**

### ***Why Accreditation?***

Manufacturers, product certifiers and regulators rely on the integrity, reliability and technical competence of testing laboratories for evidence that products are safe and reliable and meet the requirements of codes and standards. Regulators and the marketplace in general, increasingly are demanding that test reports be from accredited testing laboratories. A laboratory's product— its test report—must be dependable and carry the mark of an accreditation organization that is completely independent and that has the safety of the public as its guiding purpose. Independence and concern for public safety are the qualities to look for in any organization that accredits laboratories, and these are the qualities embodied in International Accreditation Service (IAS).

IAS provides credibility that goes beyond that of most accreditation organizations because IAS is interested only in quality and technical excellence. IAS isn't the largest accreditation body, just one of the most experienced and respected. IAS's international reputation has been built on its high level of technical ability and its commitment to public safety.

The IAS laboratory accreditation program is modeled on the international standard ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* (ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005) and is recognized globally by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.

### ***Benefits of IAS Accreditation***

IAS accreditation helps testing laboratories meet their clients' demands for evidence of technical competence. IAS provides you assurance, through accreditation, that testing laboratories have been evaluated against internationally accepted standards. Importantly, also, the IAS accreditation process is independent, transparent and dependable.

IAS is committed to operating a world-class, cost-effective laboratory accreditation program that ensures the services of accredited laboratories are consistent and of high quality. The IAS testing laboratory accreditation program provides the following benefits:

**Proof of Compliance:** IAS accreditation provides proof of compliance with ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005.

**Confidence:** IAS accreditation to internationally accepted criteria provides complete confidence in the quality of services provided by testing laboratories.

Transparency: IAS accreditation is independent and objective, and is based on a transparent accreditation process, which instills confidence in the accreditation results.

Competency: IAS accreditation provides evidence that laboratories render competent and consistent services in line with international standards.

Outstanding quality of assessments: IAS places tremendous importance on the training of its assessors. This leads to high levels of assessor competency and increased technical expertise.

Enhanced knowledge base: With its excellent knowledge base and team of technical experts, IAS helps to improve the quality of work performed by its accredited testing and calibration laboratories.

Proficiency Testing and Interlaboratory Comparisons: IAS provides for proficiency testing and interlaboratory comparisons that laboratories use to demonstrate their technical competence. IAS provides independent feedback concerning a laboratory's actual performance and can be used as a tool to monitor improvement efforts.

### ***The Accreditation Process***

IAS accredits testing laboratories by verifying technical competence and assessing their quality systems to the international standard ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005. The process for becoming an IAS-accredited testing laboratory begins with the testing laboratory's submittal of an application, applicable fees, and a quality manual. An IAS accreditation officer is selected to partner with the laboratory throughout the accreditation process, beginning with a review of the quality manual and the requested scope of accreditation. Once the quality manual has been reviewed and approved, IAS selects an assessment team based on the requested scope of accreditation. The assessment team conducts an on-site assessment of the laboratory and develops an assessment report. Once a laboratory has satisfied IAS accreditation requirements and demonstrated competence, an accreditation certificate is issued.

### ***About IAS***

International Accreditation Service, a subsidiary corporation of the International Code Council, assesses and accredits testing and calibration laboratories and inspection bodies. The IAS testing laboratory accreditation program is recognized internationally by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). In operation since 1975, IAS is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation and one of the oldest accreditation bodies of its type.

### ***For More Information***

To learn more about IAS testing laboratory accreditation, please visit [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org), call toll-free 1-866-427-4422, or e-mail [info@iasonline.org](mailto:info@iasonline.org).