



IAS NEWS RELEASE

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BSD SpecLink-E Expands References to IAS to Ensure Competent Fabricators



[Building Systems Design, Inc.](http://www.iasonline.org) (BSD) has added specification language for IAS[®] accredited structural steel fabricators (AC172) to several new sections of its SpecLink-E[®]—Spring 2012 release. BSD's SpecLink-E is a sophisticated master guide specification system subscribed to by architects, engineers and specification writers across North America.

The latest version of SpecLink-E[®] (made available in March) includes IAS references in the fabricator qualifications in sections 014219 (Reference Standards), 051200 (Structural Steel Framing), 052000 (Metal Joists), 053000 (Metal Decking), 055000 (Metal Fabrications), 055100 (Metal Stairs), Section 057113 (Fabricated Metal Spiral Stairs), Section 061000 (Rough Carpentry), 220548 (Vibration and Seismic Controls for Plumbing Piping and Equipment) and 230548 (Vibration and Seismic Controls for HVAC Piping and Equipment.)

[International Accreditation Service](http://www.iasonline.org)[®] (IAS[®]), a subsidiary of the [International Code Council](http://www.icc.org)[®] (ICC[®]), accredits steel fabricators to provide evidence that fabricators meet the requirements in the *International Building Code*[®] (IBC[®]) Chapter 17.

“When architects, engineers and designers use BSD SpecLink-E[®] to specify IAS-accredited structural steel fabricators, they can be assured they are specifying competent fabricators that can meet quality and code requirements for their projects,” said IAS President Chuck Ramani.

The IAS fabricator accreditation program (AC 172) has been used since 1958 by code officials to approve fabricators. 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 overall final approval for any fabricator is always the building official," said Ramani.

To achieve IAS accreditation, fabricators must pass a comprehensive assessment that begins with the fabricator's quality manual followed by an on-site assessment that includes the facility, manufacturing equipment, incoming raw materials, fabrication processes and traceability fabricated items. 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 required to have an in-house quality manager, a certified quality control inspector and certified welders. All welders must use their identifying number, letter or symbol for traceability, and 100 percent of the weldments are inspected. When a fabricator meets program criteria, IAS issues a certificate of accreditation.

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 a formal, independent verification to establish a program, institution or company meets quality standards and is competent to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. Accreditation has been used for more than 50 years as the definitive means of evaluating organizations. It is now used by all major economies globally and many developing economies. Governmental regulatory agencies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Highway Administration require accreditation to verify technical competence.

BSD develops and sells innovative software tools for the architectural, engineering and construction markets in North America. Founded in 1983, the company creates, maintains and supports advanced specification writing, cost estimating and Building Information Modeling interoperability products used by thousands of architects, engineers and design professionals. 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 share information with each other. BSD was acquired by the [Construction Specifications Institute](http://www.construction-specifications-institute.com) in 2010. For more information about BSD, visit www.bsdsftlink.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. For more information about IAS, visit <http://www.iasonline.org> or call 866-427-4422.

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