

A CALIBRATION LABORATORY'S INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE, INC.

Why Accreditation?

Laboratories and manufacturers in every field depend on the technical competence of calibration providers to ensure accurate and consistent measurements. The measurement may involve something as simple as determining the correct volume and weight of a substance or as complex as determining the trajectory of a trip to Mars. Because proper calibration depends on trained and qualified people, it is imperative for calibration providers to supply proof of their expertise. International Accreditation Service's calibration laboratory accreditation program provides the evidence needed by your customers. IAS accreditation provides an independent verification of the technical competence of the personnel, suitability of equipment and the effectiveness of the management systems of calibration providers. IAS accredits calibration providers to the internationally accepted standard ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

Proficiency Testing and Interlaboratory Comparisons

Proficiency testing and interlaboratory comparisons (PT/ILCs) are two closely related methods that a laboratory may use to demonstrate technical competence. Participation in PT/ILCs provides independent feedback concerning a laboratory's actual performance and can be used as a tool to make improvements. IAS recommends and facilitates the use of PT/ILCs as an improvement tool for all of its accredited calibration laboratories. In fact, PT/ILCs are required for IAS laboratory accreditation and IAS is working with its national and international partners to ensure that necessary and appropriate PT/ILCs are available for laboratories in all fields.

Benefits of IAS Accreditation

- IAS accreditation helps calibration laboratories meet their customers' demands for evidence of technical competence.
- IAS accreditation is independent and objective, and is based on a transparent accreditation process incorporating open public hearings for development of accreditation criteria for calibration laboratories.
- IAS accreditation provides evidence that laboratories render competent and consistent services in line with international standards.
- IAS places tremendous importance on the training and qualifications of its assessors. This leads to a high level of assessor competency and technical expertise.
- With its knowledge base and team of technical experts, IAS helps to improve the quality of accredited calibration laboratories.

- International recognition by virtue of IAS's signatory status in the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC).

The Accreditation Process

IAS accredits calibration laboratories by verifying technical competence and assessing their management systems to ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005. The process for becoming an IAS-accredited calibration laboratory begins with the calibration laboratory's submittal of an application, applicable fees and its management system documentation. An IAS accreditation officer is selected to partner with the laboratory throughout the accreditation process, beginning with a review of the management system and the requested scope of accreditation. Once the management system 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, compliance with ISO/IEC Standard 17025 and demonstrated technical competence, an accreditation certificate is issued.

About IAS

International Accreditation Service, a subsidiary corporation of the International Code Council, assesses and accredits competent calibration and testing laboratories. The IAS testing and calibration laboratory accreditation programs are 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 calibration laboratory accreditation, please visit www.iasonline.org, call toll-free 1-866-427-4422, or e-mail info@iasonline.org.