



# IAS Field Evaluation Body Accreditation Program

## 1. How does the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) use the IAS Field Evaluation Body Accreditation Program?

The IAS Field Evaluation Body (FEB) Accreditation Program assists the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in the field evaluation and approval of unlisted electrical equipment. The purpose of the field evaluation is to evaluate and test electrical equipment to ensure that the products comply with the applicable standards.

## 2. When would a field evaluation of electrical equipment be necessary?

- Equipment is sometimes installed that has not been listed by an approved certification agency or has been modified after installation.
- Equipment has been repaired, reconditioned, refurbished or remanufactured such that its features or design have been changed.
- The AHJ may identify a problem with products that need further investigation.

## 3. How does the program work?

An AHJ can require an IAS accredited FEB to perform a field evaluation of unlisted electrical equipment installed in his/her jurisdiction. The field evaluation is primarily to determine compliance with applicable codes or standards for one-of-a-kind, limited production, used or modified equipment that are not listed or labeled under a full listing or certification program or where the listing has been voided by modifications. The evaluation process is normally conducted at the installation site. Evaluation at alternate sites require approval by the AHJ.

**4. What are examples of the kinds of products evaluated by an IAS Accredited FEB?**

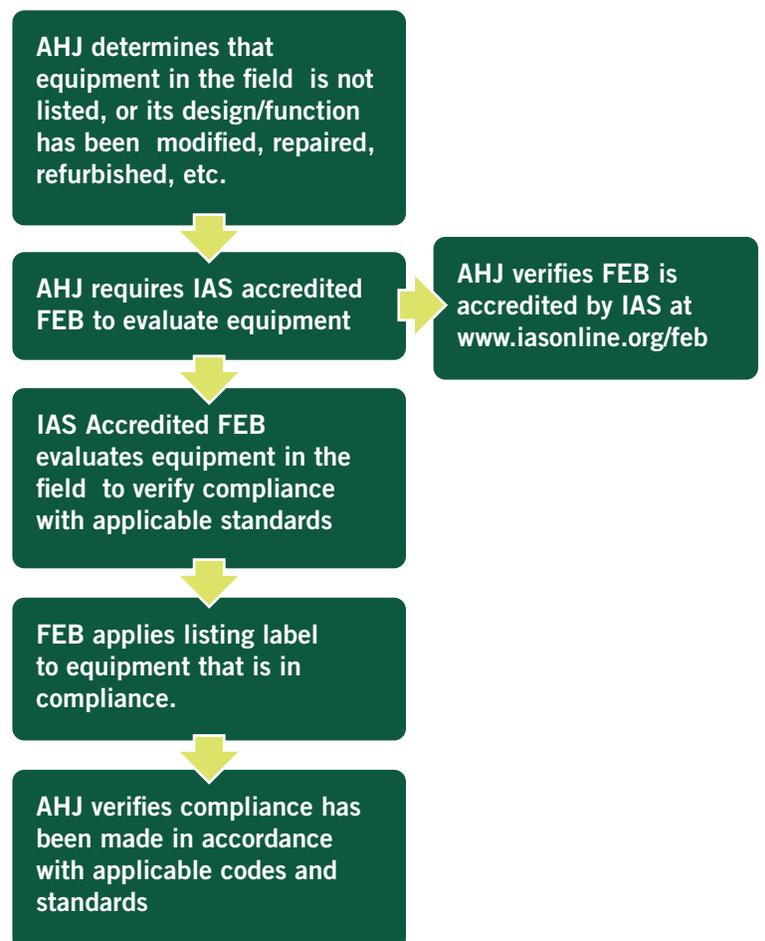
- Power distribution equipment under 600 volts including switchboards, panelboards, motor control centers, transformers and switches
- Power distribution equipment over 600 volts (medium and high voltage) including switchgear, motor control, transformers and switches
- Industrial control and utilization equipment including industrial control panels, factory automation equipment, industrial process equipment, motor operated tools and machinery such as air compressors, pumps, etc.
- Commercial utilization equipment and appliances including commercial cooking equipment, motor operated commercial cooking equipment, refrigeration and cooling equipment, heating equipment, laundry and dry cleaning equipment, HVAC units, fan units
- Luminaries (lighting fixtures) and signs including neon, LED and messaging type signs
- Medical and dental equipment
- Information technology equipment including UPS systems, electronic control equipment
- Wet location equipment including pools, spas, hot tubs, fountain equipment

**5. Who pays for the FEB to evaluate a product in the field?**

FEBs provide field service paid for by one of the parties involved - typically the manufacturer or installer - to determine if the specific unit in the field is code compliant for the specific installation.



**AHJ use of IAS Accredited FEB to Evaluate Electrical Equipment Flow Chart**



## **6. What is the basis for the IAS Accreditation?**

The IAS program provides a formal accreditation process to recognize qualified agencies conducting evaluations of electrical equipment.

The program is based on IAS Accreditation Criteria for Field Evaluation of Electrical Equipment (AC354). This criteria requires agencies to operate under a quality management system and contains specific technical, personnel, training and reporting requirements as well. In addition to performing an assessment of the applicant FEB's quality management system, IAS also assesses FEB's performance during actual evaluations in the field prior to accreditation.

The IAS AC354 accreditation criteria is largely based on compliance with ISO/IEC 17020 and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 790, Standard for Competency of Third Party Evaluation Bodies (FEB) and NFPA 791, Recommended Practice and Procedures for Unlabeled Equipment Evaluation. These NFPA standards are the only formal standards relating to field evaluation in the U.S.

## **7. How do you verify if a FEB is accredited by IAS?**

Certificates of Accreditation for all IAS Accredited Field Evaluation Bodies are available free to anyone online 24/7 at [http://www.iasonline.org/Field\\_Evaluation\\_Bodies/FEB.html](http://www.iasonline.org/Field_Evaluation_Bodies/FEB.html)

## **8. Sample Regulatory Language for Acceptance of IAS Accredited FEBs**

### **State of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), Division of Professionals and Occupations State Electrical Board, Rules and Regulations, July 1, 2014**

#### 3 CCR 710-1 State Electrical Board Rule and Regulations 1 (DOC)

7.11 Article 110.2, "Approval", in the National Electrical Code, provides that conductors and equipment required or permitted by this code shall be acceptable only when "approved". The Board will accept conductors and equipment that have been tested and approved by a recognized testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or field-evaluated by an accredited Field Evaluation Body (FEB) in accordance with NFPA 790 and 791. FEB accreditation is to be provided by International Accreditation Service (IAS) or equal.

### **State of New Mexico Electrical Code**

State of New Mexico

TITLE 14                    HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION  
CHAPTER 10                ELECTRICAL CODES  
PART 4                      2011 NEW MEXICO ELECTRICAL CODE  
14.10.4.11                 CHAPTER 1 General.

B. Article 110 - Requirements for electrical installations. See this article of the NEC except as provided below.

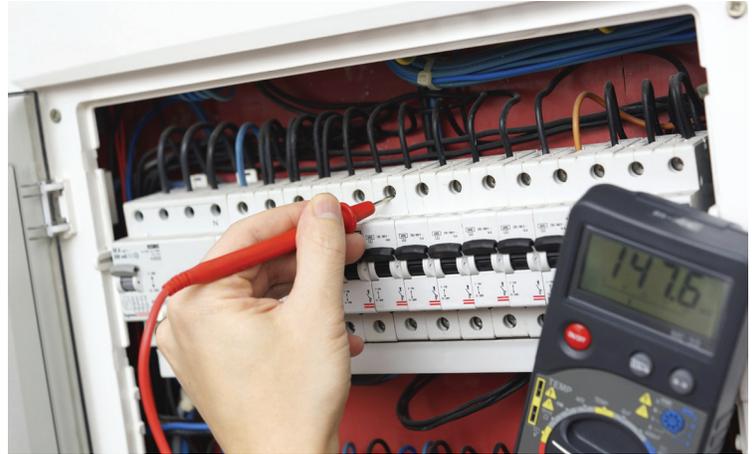
(1) Section 110.2 Approval. See this section of the NEC and add the following:

(b) field evaluation - electrical wiring, equipment or material that is not listed and labeled, but for which a (UL) safety standard exists may be approved upon certification by a nationally recognized testing laboratory recognized by the federal occupational safety and health administration or by a field evaluation body accredited by the international accreditation service, inc.;

<http://www.nmhba.com/buildingcodes/2012-codes/2011NMElectricalCode.pdf>

### 9. What are the benefits of using IAS Accredited FEBs?

- Confidence that electrical products are being inspected by qualified professionals based on the applicable requirements in codes and standards.
- The IAS program is available to all AHJs at no cost.
- Provides the AHJ with evidence needed to approve Field Evaluation Bodies.
- Effective utilization of the AHJ's resources.
- Standardizes assessments for all Field Evaluation Bodies.
- IAS program is transparent and subject to code official oversight through the IAS Accreditation Committee.



### 10. What is a key difference between the OSHA accreditation program for National Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs) and IAS FEB Accreditation Program?

OSHA NRTLs and IAS FEBs are third-party organizations that have the capability to provide product safety testing. For an IAS FEB, this testing and subsequent labeling primarily occurs in the field, while an OSHA NRTL tests and certifies at the point of manufacture. According to the OSHA website "...requirements that local code authorities may impose on products are primarily installation or "field labeling" requirements, whereas OSHA's requirement for NRTL approval primarily affect the manufacturing of products."  
[https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/faq\\_nrtl.html](https://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/faq_nrtl.html)

Both NRTLs and FEBs are part of the U.S. Electrical Safety System that helps insure safe installations of electrical products and systems.

### 11. About IAS

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is a nonprofit, subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC) and a globally recognized accreditation body. IAS is the only accreditation body that holds open public meetings with participation by regulatory officials and industry representatives to develop its accreditation criteria.

IAS is a signatory to the four primary international organizations that form a unified system for evaluating and recognizing competent accreditation bodies worldwide. Under this system, IAS is evaluated by peer experts to verify its accreditation services comply with international requirements.

IAS provides accreditation for organizations in numerous fields including field evaluation bodies, testing and calibration laboratories, special inspection agencies, inspection agencies, fabricators. Federal, state and local governmental bodies recognize IAS accreditation, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, General Service Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, United States Army Corp of Engineers, United States Marines, U.S. Naval Facilities, U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency.

**For More Information**  
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*IAS is a subsidiary of the  
International Code Council.*

