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October 14, 2021

**TO: IAS – PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AGENCIES, PERSONNEL
CERTIFICATION BODIES INSPECTION AGENCIES AND OTHER
INTERESTED PARTIES.**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Accreditation Criteria for Validation and Verification Bodies,
AC800-202112-R0 (DK)**

Hearing Information:

IAS Accreditation Committee
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021
8:30 AM (California – PST)
WebEx Meeting – Refer to IAS website for details.

Dear Madam or Sir:

Proposed Accreditation Criteria for **Validation and Verification Bodies**, (AC800) has been placed on the agenda for committee consideration at the above-noted meeting. This criteria and new program are being proposed to meet the growing need for accredited validation and verification bodies. The main area of accreditation for validation and verification bodies in this criteria is Greenhouse Gases. ISO/IEC 17029 is the main compliance standard used in this program for the accreditation of VVBs. Additionally, other normative standards such as ISO 14065, ISO 14066 and ISO 14064 (Parts 1, 2 and 3) are also required for the accreditation and certification in this area.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments, or to attend the WebEx committee hearing and present verbal comments. Written comments will be forwarded to the committee, **prior to the hearing**, if received by November 14, 2021. For your convenience, a comment form is provided. The link can be found on the Accreditation Committee meeting page on the IAS website, www.iasonline.org. Comments must be emailed to iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Parties interested in proposed revised criteria may deliver written communications and submissions regarding such proposed criteria to IAS within approximately 30 days of posting of the public notice on the IAS website. The committee shall be informed of all pertinent written communications received by IAS. Any relevant communication and changes to a criteria arising from the written communication/submission shall be posted to the IAS website prior to the meeting.

Participants at the accreditation committee meetings shall have the opportunity to speak on the proposed criteria to provide information to the committee. Committee meetings are generally held by electronic means. Participants are responsible to ensure access to appropriate computer equipment, software, and internet connectivity to ensure effective participation during the meeting.

Your cooperation is requested in forwarding to IAS, as noted above, all material directed to the committee. Prior to the hearing, parties interested in the deliberations of the committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with committee members regarding agenda items. The committee reserves the right to refuse communications that do not comply with this request.

If you have any questions, please contact IAS at 562-364-8201. You may also reach us by e-mail at iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Yours very truly,



Raj Nathan
President

Enclosures: Proposed Revised AC800

cc: Accreditation Committee

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2 **PROPOSED ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES**
3 **(VVBs)**
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5 **AC800**
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8 **Proposed October 14, 2021**
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11 **PREFACE**
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14 The attached accreditation criteria have been proposed to provide all interested parties with an
15 opportunity to comment. These criteria may be further revised as needed. The criteria are
16 developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the International Accreditation
17 Service, Inc. (IAS), Accreditation Committee and are effective on the first of the month following
18 approval by the Accreditation Committee, but no earlier than 30 days following the approval.

19 **PROPOSED ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES**
20 **(VVBs)**

21
22 **1. INTRODUCTION**

23 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International
24 Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) accreditation. The
25 criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Validation and Verification Bodies.

26 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions
27 (unless otherwise stated).

28 1.2.1. ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for
29 validation and verification bodies;

30 1.2.2. ISO 14065:2020, General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying
31 environmental information;

32 1.2.3. ISO 14066:2011, Greenhouse gases — Competence requirements for greenhouse gas
33 validation teams and verification teams.

34 1.2.4. ISO 14064-1:2018, Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the
35 organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and
36 removals.

37 1.2.5. ISO 14064-2:2019, Greenhouse gases — Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project
38 level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or
39 removal enhancements

40 1.2.6. ISO 14064-3:2019, Greenhouse gases — Part 3: Specification with guidance for the
41 verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements.

42 1.2.7. IAF MD 4:2018 IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication
43 Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes

44 1.2.8. IAF MD 6:2014 Application of ISO 14065:2013

45 1.2.9. IAF MD 12:2016 Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities
46 in Multiple Countries

47 1.2.10. IAF MD14:2014 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 in Greenhouse Gas Validation and
48 Verification (ISO 14065:2013)

49 1.2.11. IAF MD 20:2016 Generic Competence for AB Assessors: Application to ISO/IEC 17011

50 1.2.12. IAF Resolutions related to accreditation bodies and transitions as available on the IAF
51 website.

52 1.2.13. IAF ID 3:2011 Informative Document for Management of Extraordinary Events or
53 Circumstances Affecting ABs, CABs and Certified Organizations

54 1.2.14. ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.

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56 **2. DEFINITIONS**

57 2.1. Applicable definitions found in ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.

58 2.2. **APAC:** Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation

59 2.3. **CAB:** Conformity Assessment Body

60 2.4. **GHG:** Greenhouse Gases

61 2.5. **IAF:** International Accreditation Forum

62 2.6. **Remote Assessments:** Accreditation Body's assessment of the physical location or virtual site
63 of a CAB office or CAB's client, using electronic means

64 2.7. **VVB:** Validation and Verification Body applicant or accredited by IAS

65 2.8. **Validation:** confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that the
66 requirements for a specific intended future use or application have been fulfilled.

67 2.9. **Verification:** confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that specified
68 requirements have been fulfilled.

69 2.10. **Virtual site:** An online environment allowing persons to execute processes, e.g., in a cloud
70 environment.

71 2.11. **Witness Assessments:** Validation/Verification activities/audits that are observed by an IAS
72 assessor

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74 **3. ELIGIBILITY**

75 3.1. Accreditation services are available to all validation and verification bodies that meet the
76 following requirements:

77 3.1.1. Have at least a minimum of one certified project completed in the requested scope of
78 accreditation

79 3.1.2. Have completed at least one Internal Audit and one Management Review

80 3.1.3. Have a complete and demonstrable management system based on the requirements of
81 the ISO/IEC 17029:2019.

82 3.1.4. Demonstrate compliance with all applicable IAF Mandatory Documents (MD).

83 3.1.5. Have competent validation / verification teams in the requested scope of accreditation.

84 3.1.6. All office and witness assessments are conducted onsite unless agreed by IAS for
85 remote or virtual assessments or mandated by IAF under special circumstances.

86 3.2. All documents submitted to IAS must be in English.

87 3.3. The VVB or any part of the same legal entity or any entity under the organizational control of the
88 VVB cannot offer or provide consultancy.

89 3.4. The IAS Accreditation cycle for VVBs is 4 years (see Annex A)

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91 **4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION**

92 4.1 Applicant VVBs must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

93 4.1.1 ISO/IEC Standard 17029 and level 4 standards, as applicable.

94 4.1.2 All relevant IAF Mandatory Documents (MD).
95 (http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Mandatory_Documents_/38)

96 4.1.3 IAF relevant Resolutions related to accreditation bodies and transitions as available on
97 the IAF website.

98 4.1.4 All IAF Informative Documents (ID).
99 (http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Informative_Documents_/32)

100 4.1.5 ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.

101 4.1.6 Relevant IAS policy documents

102 4.1.7 Policy on the Restricted Use of IAS Endorsement by Accredited Organizations

103 4.1.8 Policy on the use of the ILAC/IAF/IAS Combined Marks

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105 **5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)**

106 5.1 All requested scopes shall be in the format used in the IAS VVB application form.

107 5.1.1 Applicant VVBs shall undergo onsite and witness assessments, as described in IAS Rules
108 of Procedure for VVBs and Section 3.3 of this criteria document.

109 5.1.2 Identification of the program for the particular validation/verification that needs to be
110 operated.

111 5.1.3 Program description shall specify definitions, principles, rules, processes and requirements
112 for validation/verification process steps, as well as for the competence of
113 validators/verifiers for a specific sector.

114 5.1.4 Programs can be legal frameworks, international, regional or national standards, global
115 initiatives, sector applications as well as individual agreements with clients of the
116 validation/verification body.

117 5.1.5 Information and disclosure regarding current or past accreditation status or sanctions
118 brought against the VVB shall be requested during the application :

119 5.1.6 Formal Application is through the iasinfo@iasonline.org

120 5.1.7 IAS will only accept certified client's project reports provided directly by the VVBs.

121 5.2 Accredited VVBs – Transitions to IAS requirements, international standards or IAF MDs: The
122 following are required when transitioning:

123 5.2.1 A transition plan to be provided by the MSCB to IAS

124 5.2.2 Qualified and experienced personnel

125 5.2.3 Audit records if any, relating to the transition or a witness assessment as needed

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127 **6 LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

128 6.1 International Accreditation Forum (IAF) – www.iaf.nu

129 6.2 International Organization for Standardization (ISO) – www.iso.org

130 6.3 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) - <https://www.apac-accreditation.org/>

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Annex A

IAS ACCREDITATION CYCLE



134
135 1st Cycle

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| Example of VVB Assessment Schedule * | Initial Accreditation Decision date to next Surveillance Assessment 1 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022 | Surveillance 1 Assessment Date to Surveillance 2 Assessment Date (12 months apart) June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023 | Surveillance 2 Assessment date to Surveillance 3 Assessment date (12 months apart) June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024 | Surveillance 3 assessment date to Reassessment 1 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2024 to June 1, 2025 |
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137 2nd Cycle

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| Example of VVB Assessment Schedule* | Reassessment 1 date to next Surveillance Assessment 1 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026 | Surveillance 1 Assessment Date to Surveillance 2 Assessment Date (12 months apart) June 1, 2026 to June 1, 2027 | Surveillance 2 Assessment date to Surveillance 3 Assessment date (12 months apart) June 1, 2027 to June 1, 2028 | Surveillance 3 assessment date to Reassessment 2 date (12 months apart) June 1, 2028 to June 1, 2029 |
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