



International Accreditation Service, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

01

Letter from the President

From the President's Desk



Who could have ever imagined that we would be adjusting our businesses and lives at this point in the year to navigate the Covid-19 crisis? IAS closed our offices on March 18, and the entire staff commenced working from their home. While the transition to working from home was jarring in the beginning, we have adjusted and are moving forward with business. In

the meantime, we have heard from many of our customers, who have also been experiencing different degrees of business disruption globally. While some of our customers have had to temporarily close, others are focusing on innovation or process improvement. Amid this pandemic, we've also heard from some of our clients who fast tracked their scope of accreditation to be able to provide testing on Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), such as masks, surgical wear, gloves, etc. One of our key customers, Underwriters Laboratories (UL), reached out to us to expand their scope of services, and our staff were able to turn around their request in 48 hours! Rick A. Titus, Accreditation Asset Manager of UL, sent the following note to staff: "Thanks to the entire IAS team! This scope expansion is for standards related to the testing PPE products used by healthcare professionals who are helping to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to all of you in processing this so quickly – we are grateful to you! We are all truly making a difference and contribution at a time when we need it most." I am glad we could play a small but critical role in these challenging times. (cont. on page 2)



Thanks to the entire IAS team!

This scope expansion is for standards related to the testing PPE products used by healthcare professionals who are helping to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Rick Titus



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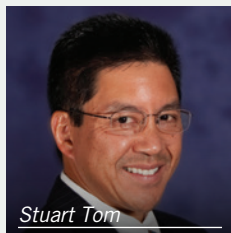
Connect With Us

IAS provides accreditation services across multiple industries...

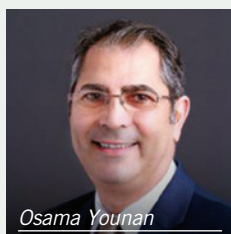


Letter from the President *(cont.)*

As we move forward into the year, I want to take the opportunity to mention a few of the milestones accomplished by our IAS team. In February, IAS received recognition from [The NELAC Institute](#) (TNI) to provide third-party assessments and accreditation which enables IAS to accredit environmental laboratories to the TNI environmental laboratory standard. In March, the [Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute](#) and the International Accreditation Service (IAS) announced a [cooperation agreement](#) on fabricator accreditation. [California State University Dominguez Hills](#) and IAS developed a four-module certification program on Accreditation, Standardization and Conformity Assessment. IAS has gained recognition from [US FDA](#) (Food and Drug Administration) to service global customers in this sector. IAS colleagues, Mohan Sabaratnam and C.K. Cheung, led Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) teams to evaluate International Accreditation Japan and Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, as part of the peer evaluation process. IAS hosted an APAC Training program on ISO 50001 - Energy management systems, with our colleague, Ramesh Ramachandran, as the lead trainer. The Technical Conclave on Food Accreditations with FDA representatives from USA in attendance was hosted in New Delhi, India, in February 2020, among others.



tenure ended last December 2019. Stuart was always a calming voice bringing his years of experience in the regulatory community, and an all-around fun individual. Recently, Mr.



Building Department as their General Manager. This high-profile position will require his undivided attention, and we regret his departure from our Board. IAS Board and Management wishes both these stellar individuals much success in their new adventures. We have now been

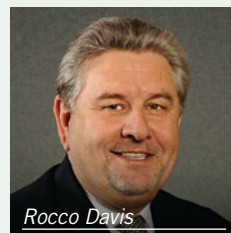


regulatory perch in Gillette, Wyoming, as well as Board-level experience to provide guidance to all of us. We welcomed Jim to our HQ during our recent Board meeting here in Southern California.

I am also thankful to Mr. Stuart Tom, who served on our Board for several years, and whose

Osama Younan, tendered his resignation from the Board as he was selected to head the Los Angeles City

We pray and hope that this pandemic will be behind us soon, and we can all get back to our critical work to serve the larger community which has been in lock down globally. I welcome you to share any milestones from your organization that may be relevant to our common good through this newsletter. On behalf



of Board Chairman Rocco Davis and the entire IAS Board, as well as IAS Management

Staff, our best to all of you for the coming months and year!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raj Nathan".

Raj Nathan
President

COVID-19 Update from IAS

IAS recognizes that our customers are being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in different ways. Our assessors and staff are prepared to coordinate and communicate with customers online or by phone. IAS will continue to adjust business methods to continue serving our customers' needs safely and efficiently.

IAS has put in place several precautions consistent with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\)](#) recommendations for strategies that businesses might implement to protect their employees, members and guests.

THOSE PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

- The health and safety of our employees, clients, and guests is top priority for IAS. Staff has shifted to remote work. This will help our organization to comply with government and public health directives, contribute to the public health, and reduce exposure.
- IAS continues offering its accreditation services globally, utilizing remote assessment technologies for upcoming surveillance, reassessments and other types of assessments.
- Initial assessments' methodology will be considered per case based on the risk level associated with each country. IAS may schedule under conditions, postpone or reschedule such assessments. Risk Assessment Level 1-3 localities are listed on the [CDC's website](#).

Detailed instructions were issued to IAS personnel and assessors. Still, IAS is closely monitoring developments relating to COVID-19 and will issue additional announcements as circumstances evolve.

For the latest information regarding the coronavirus disease, as well as information on prevention and travel precautions, visit [CDC's website](#).

Remote Assessments

The Do's and Dont's of Remote Assessments *By: Patrick J. McCullen*

Patrick J. McCullen,
Senior Accreditation
Officer



Remote Assessment – What is it?

International Accreditation Forum ID12:2015 defines a remote assessment as, “the facilitation of assessment of a Conformity Assessment Body from a location other than that being physically present. In other words, an assessment that takes place without physically visiting the site of the organization.

A remote assessment is not a document review, it is not a review of records, it is not a phone interview, it is not simply observation of processes via webcam; a remote assessment is a combination of all these things. This article will provide some guidelines on how to have a successful remote assessment.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Listen

Listening skills are important for any assessment; for remote assessments, they become even more critical. When not in the same room, misunderstandings can happen with increased frequency. The assessor does not have the benefit of body language to help tell when a customer understands or doesn't understand a topic and vice versa. Before you talk, listen.

2. Prepare

Preparation is a key aspect of any assessment; with remote assessments, it can mean the difference between success and failure. For the assessor: not only must they prepare for the assessment from a technical perspective, the assessor must also consider the means for communication. Test Webex ahead of time, call the customer a day ahead to test vocal quality, make sure you know how to “screen share” prior to beginning the assessment. For the customer, load all relevant files onto a file sharing platform such as Google Drive or Microsoft Onedrive beforehand will help ensure frustration free sharing during the assessment, especially when demonstrating that documents and records are “readily available.”

3. Add more time

Remote assessments tend to be more susceptible to interruption. After all, it's much easier to get distracted while doing an assessment from your computer rather than on-site. Add extra time to make up for these inevitable interruptions.*

WHAT NOT TO DO:

1. Forget about the mute button

The mute button should be the best friend of assessors and customers during remote assessments. When not speaking, out of courtesy to others, please, make sure your mic is muted. Just don't forget to un-mute when it's your turn to speak up.

2. Have more than one person / device running in the same room

If you must have multiple people on the call, individual rooms are preferred. This helps ensure that feedback is kept to a minimum and that everyone is easily understood.

3. Jump to conclusions

This of course is true for any assessment, not just those conducted remotely. However, with the above-mentioned communication issues already impacting rapport during the assessment, it is easy to jump to conclusions without fully understanding a topic. More patience and understanding is needed for remote assessments for both customers and assessors. Courtesy costs nothing but increases the value of any interaction.

Remote Assessments during COVID 19

*With the spread of COVID 19, many businesses have shut their doors, causing many employees to work from home. With the closure of many schools and other childcare services, many assessors and customers have various caretaker roles to perform. Schedule frequent breaks and discuss any special considerations ahead of time.



IAS is making it more convenient than ever to **learn about key ISO/IEC Standards** and the Accreditation Process using IAS Webinars and Online courses.

WEBINARS

Listen to industry experts, ask questions, and learn during these live IAS webinar training sessions. Check out the schedules and course descriptions below.

ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 Management Systems CBs

– [Learn more](#)

Learn about how to prepare for a management system certification body assessment and conduct effective audits.

May 27-29

ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Inspection Agencies

– [Learn more](#)

Introduction and refresher course to ISO/IEC 17020 standard, Management System requirements, IAS assessment process, Auditing techniques.

May 21-22

ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Product Certification Agencies

– [Learn more](#)

Introduction and refresher course to ISO/IEC 17065 standard, Management System requirements, IAS assessment process, Auditing techniques.

June 22-23

ONLINE TRAINING

Learn about accreditation program standards using IAS online courses when it is convenient for your schedule. Get the details for each course and download the syllabus. Start and stop the training when necessary. These courses provide in-depth training and range from 3 to 10 hours to complete. Check out the sample online training pages.

ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories

– [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17025 Revision to 2017 version

– [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies

– [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17065 for certification bodies

– [Learn more](#)

ELAP/ TNI Program for Environmental Labs

Written By: Mohan Sabaratnam

In January 2020, International Accreditation Service (IAS) gained recognition from [The NELAC Institute](#) (TNI) to become an approved Non-Governmental Accreditation Body. This TNI recognition now enables IAS to accredit environmental laboratories for recognition by state agencies within the USA. The journey to achieve this recognition was long and started in late 2016 when IAS held its first booth at the Environmental Measurement Symposium in Garden Grove, CA. The meeting was an introduction to the many faceted accreditation bodies and environmental laboratories that partner and participate in the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) and operate in accordance with the TNI standards.

Once IAS had decided that there was a need to support this national initiative, an application was submitted, and the evaluation of IAS planned. The TNI evaluators first began their arduous task by observing an international evaluation of IAS by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) organization. After this observation, the TNI evaluators began their office evaluation by reviewing all our documentation, system manuals and procedures. Then a laboratory assessment conducted by one of our assessors was witnessed by the evaluators. The evaluations raised findings to which IAS presented corrective actions, to the satisfaction of the evaluators. With the closing of these findings, IAS was now ready to be accepted as a Non-Governmental Accreditation Body (NGAB) under the TNI banner. This was timely, as IAS can now also participate in the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).

At the 2020 Spring Environmental Measurement Symposium meeting in Newport Beach, CA, IAS was awarded the recognition certificate. The next 2020 Fall meeting is scheduled to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN on Aug 3-7, 2020. The NELAC Institute (TNI) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) are the co-sponsors of the Environmental Measurement Symposium, considered as one of the largest conferences focused on environmental measurements in North America.

For more information about accreditation under this program, visit the IAS [website](#)

Mohan Sabaratnam
Vice President,
Global Accreditation
and Quality





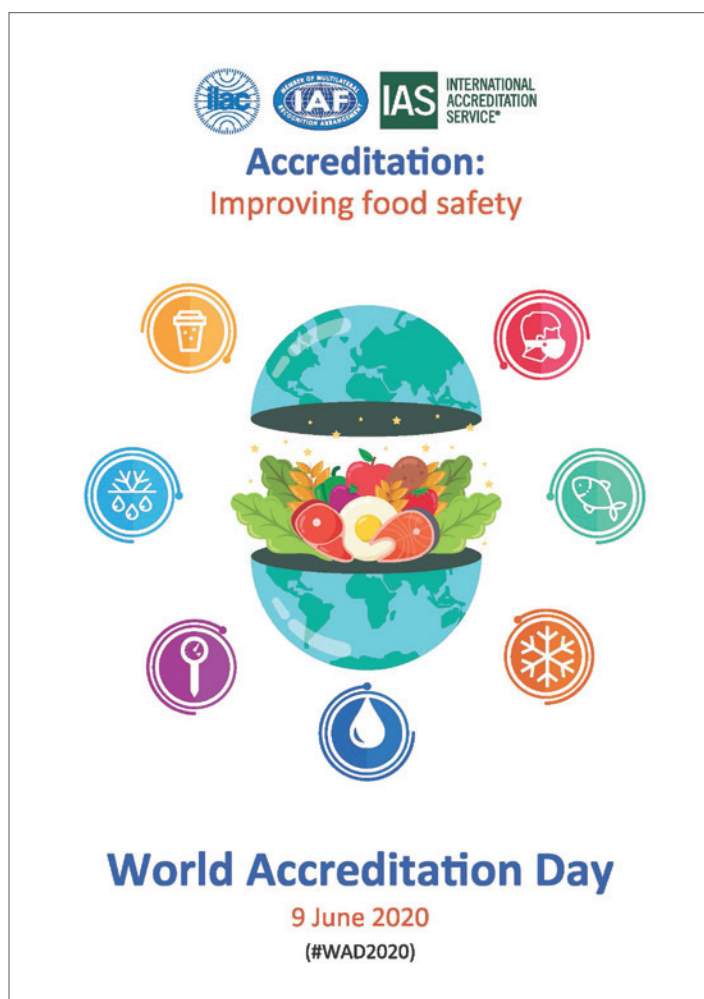
WORLD METROLOGY DAY IS MAY 20

May 20 is World Metrology Day, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875. This treaty provides the basis for a worldwide coherent measurement system that underpins scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the global environment. IAS is proud to recognize the many accredited calibration laboratories that play an important role ensuring the accuracy of measurements.

The theme for World Metrology Day 2020 is Measurements for global trade. This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in facilitating fair global trade, ensuring products meet standards and regulations, and satisfying customer quality expectations. Each year World Metrology Day is organized and celebrated jointly by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) with the participation of the national organizations responsible for metrology. [Click for more information.](#)

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY (JUNE 9)

World Accreditation Day, held June 9, is a global initiative established by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and International Accreditation Forum to celebrate the value of accreditation. This year, the theme for the day is "How accreditation Improves Food Safety." As a signatory member of both ILAC and IAF, IAS will be recognizing World Accreditation Day by hosting an online event. The event will feature food safety and accreditation experts presenting on the multiple food accreditation programs offered by IAS. For more information, visit the News page of the IAS website. Download the World Accreditation Day [Poster](#) and [Brochure](#).



Accreditation Meetings

IAS is a signatory to the three primary international organizations (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, International Accreditation Forum, Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation) that form a unified system for evaluating and recognizing competent accreditation bodies worldwide. The following are details on upcoming meetings for these organizations.

- 2020 Joint ILAC-IAF Annual meetings will be held in Montreal, Canada from October 27 to November 5, 2020.
- APAC 2021—will be held in Bengaluru, India from June 25—July 3, 2021.

APAC, ILAC Evaluations and Committee Meetings

On January 1, 2019, two former regional accreditation cooperations, the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) merged to become the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC). Each cooperation specialized in its only accreditation programs. PAC's members accredited conformity assessment bodies for management systems, product certification and personnel certifications. APLAC's members accredited conformity assessment bodies for testing, calibration and inspection. This merger makes APAC the largest regional specialist body in the world with members comprising of accreditation bodies, accreditation focal sector representatives and other organizations that have an interest in accredited conformity assessment results. APAC is also recognized by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as one of four APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) that support the work of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance.

As a full member and signatory to the APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), the International Accreditation Service (IAS) appropriately covered the inaugural meeting held in Singapore from 14 – 22 June 2019. IAS staff attending the meeting was Raj Nathan, President of IAS, Greg West, Director of Customer Success Group, and Program Manager David Musselwhite.

Being APAC's first regional General Assembly meeting after the merger, it was especially important event for

APAC to establish a more cooperative role in the Conformity Assessment arena. IAS participation in the General Assembly and its technical meetings was of strategic importance and value. IAS operates a range of accreditation programs (testing, calibration, inspection, management systems, product and persons) under the merged regional Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRAs). A successful consequence of the meeting was to expand IAS's national and international reach while broadening IAS' stature as a full-service accreditation body serving the interests of its constituents and enhancing IAS' opportunities for growth.

The APAC membership and interested stakeholders help facilitate trade and commerce amongst economies in the Asia Pacific region. These regional groups in turn serve the global markets through the framework established under the International Accreditation Forum (IAF, www.iaf.nu) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC, www.ilac.org). The primary means by which IAF/ILAC achieve international acceptance of accreditations granted by its accreditation body members is based on the equivalence of their accreditation programs through the establishment of regional MRAs. These MRAs provide world-wide recognition of test reports and certificates issued by IAS accredited conformity assessment bodies and their certified clients. At this meeting, some major updates and committee meetings were held relating to:



- APAC member applications and Signatory Evaluations
- Technical Committee and Work Group (WG) meetings
- Revision of APAC/ILAC/IAF documents
- Use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Database and Mark
- Transition to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017

The overall participation at this APAC meetings included our staff contributions as (Acting) Co-Convener of the Product WG, member of Communications and Promotions Committee, member of Technical Committee 1 and a member of MRA Management Committee. Finally, in March 2020 IAS was officially approved by APAC for our compliance to the new ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 standard.



IAS participation in the 2020 TNI annual meeting in Newport Beach

IAS is involved in developing standards around the world. The staff at IAS helps shape the future by participating in local, national and international committees for standards development. The participation in these committees not only enriches the staff and IAS, but more importantly, keeps a finger on the pulse of the industry or sector they work with. This is accomplished by providing firsthand information on accreditation principles, guidelines, and conformity infrastructure designs to the committees. This ensures that the requirements enshrined in the standard will carry accurate information on conformity rules when they get published. The overall outcome of this involvement by IAS ensures that the standards can be used effectively and efficiently by the industry and accreditation personnel. Involvement in committees range from local chapters of organizations, such as the ICC Los Angeles Basin Chapter Inspection Committee, to national industry groups, such as the NELAC Institute (TNI) and Prestress Concrete Institute (PCI), to international groups, such as the International Organization for Standards (ISO). IAS is proud of its involvement in these groups and understands that this participation has cascading effects which re-enforce our commitment to be a part of the conformity chain protecting consumer safety and health.



From L to R, Raj Nathan, Sandra McCracken, Robert Risser, Dr. George Anastasopoulos, Sam Palmer

PCI Signs Accreditation Agreement with IAS

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute and the International Accreditation Service (IAS) have completed a cooperation agreement that will enable PCI-certified plants to apply their PCI certification toward accreditation by IAS as an approved structural fabricator, in accordance with the IAS AC 157 program.

Section 1704 of the International Building Code (IBC) requires special inspections of fabricated structural, load-bearing members unless an approved fabricator is used. One method to demonstrate code compliance is to use an approved fabricator that meets the requirements of IAS AC157, Accreditation for Fabricator Inspection Programs for Reinforced and Precast/Prestressed Concrete.

Accreditation as an approved fabricator under the IAS program provides building owners, specifiers, engineers, and architects with the utmost confidence that the fabricator consistently demonstrates competency in manufacturing the highest-quality precast concrete for a wide variety of building and transportation projects. Accreditation also provides building departments with a means to register and approve fabricators.

The added benefit of approved fabricator accreditation differentiates PCI-certified plants from other suppliers and will allow PCI plants to demonstrate clear compliance with Section 1704 of the IBC. This will eliminate the need for continuous special inspection at the fabricator, potentially saving time and reducing project costs.

During the process of obtaining IAS accreditation for PCI's Plant Certification Program, PCI staff and members worked diligently with IAS staff to bring the requirements of PCI certification into as close alignment as possible with the requirements of AC157. Since then, IAS and PCI have been working together to reach agreement that by meeting the technical and inspection requirements of PCI certification, and accreditation program oversight from IAS, a PCI plant also meets the associated requirements of AC157. This culminated in the signing of the official agreement between PCI and IAS that acknowledges this.



IAS President, Raj Nathan and PCI President and CEO, Robert Risser

About PCI

Founded in 1954, The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) is a technical institute for the precast concrete structures and systems industry. PCI develops, maintains, and disseminates the Body of Knowledge for the design, fabrication, and construction of precast concrete structures and systems. PCI develops consensus base standards, industry handbooks, quality assurance programs, certification, research and development projects, design manuals, continuing education and periodical publications. PCI members include precast concrete producers, erectors, suppliers, professional engineers and architects, educators, students, and industry consultants who complement the wide range of knowledge of precast concrete. For more additional information, visit pci.org.



Assessor Spotlight:

Douglas N. Sickles, P.E.

For the past 9 years, Doug Sickles has been a Lead / Technical Assessor for IAS. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in New York. He is a Professional Engineer in the state of New York.

Doug has a total of 34 years of experience as a compliance engineer. He is a member of 5 Engineer societies as well as the International Code Council (ICC), the parent company of IAS.

Prior to working for IAS, Doug was a Building Inspector and Expert Witness at Heimer Engineering for 8 years. He also served as a Senior Staff Engineer at UL for 17 years.

Doug considers himself lucky to have completed over 100 trips overseas due to his work with IAS and UL.

When Doug isn't working, he's devoted to his family, being happily married for 28 years with 2 children. Doug enjoys hiking and swimming to stay active, he has also served on Golf Evacuation Committees for every US Open in New York since 2002. Doug follows chess world championships as well, having achieved the rank of Master when he played chess competitively in his teens and early 20s.

Doug has conducted over 700 assessments of Inspection Agencies, Special Inspection Agencies, Testing Labs, Field Evaluation Bodies, and Product Certification Agencies. Here's what he had to say about doing these assessments for IAS.

Q What is your favorite part of doing assessments?

I enjoy learning about companies and their business and helping them improve their process. I strive to have an exchange of knowledge which benefits both parties.

Q What is the most challenging part of doing assessments?

Efficiency is key; there is limited time to sample enough tests or inspections and conduct interviews. As lead assessor I try to keep things moving. I want to review everything the client presents and capture all details in the report and checklists, which should be completely finished at the end of the assessment.

Q What creates a positive assessment experience?

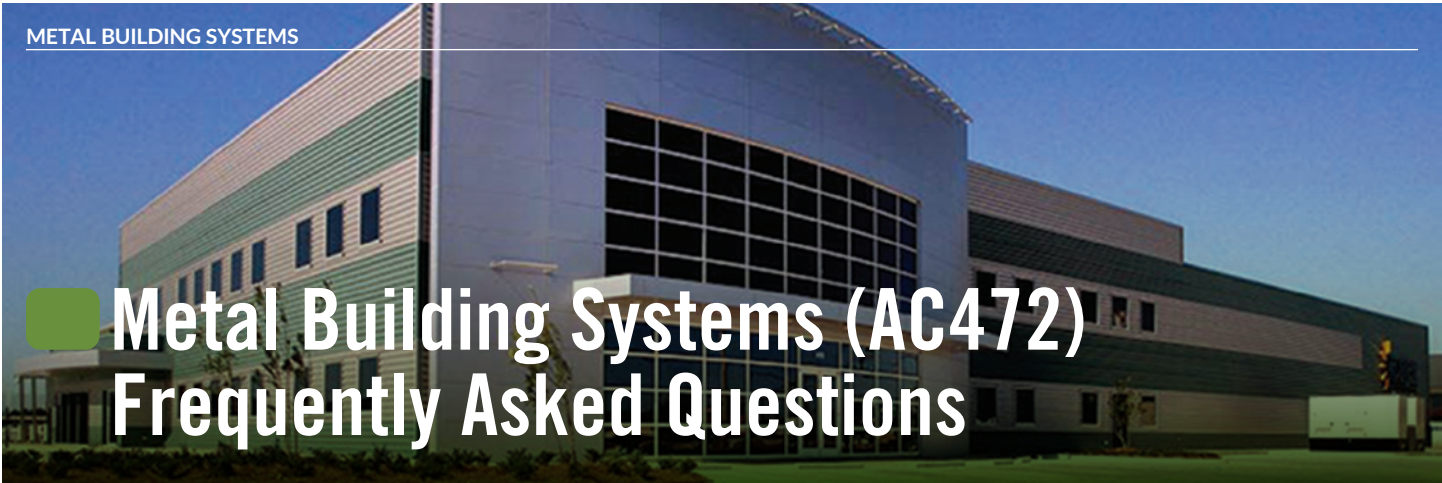
I believe the client wants assessors who understand their business and have past experience that is valuable. They want a fair assessment that will improve their management system and/or technical process. They don't want to be lectured to and they want to know the issues before the closing meeting, in case they can present more evidence and avoid unnecessary findings.

Q How should a customer prepare for an assessment?

They should conduct a strong internal audit, reviewing everything that IAS would do; and they should have a thorough management review. They need to have all their documents and records ready when we start to not lose time. They should make available everyone we need to interview or witness and have a planned schedule. Any problems or questions should be worked out before the assessment starts.

Q What is your advice to a company seeking accreditation?

Plan ahead and review your management system to every requirement in the standard. Many findings are related to documentation and records; assessors need to see evidence. Make sure your requested scope matches your technical qualifications, it will reduce findings that delay your accreditation. You can add scope expansions later as you need them. Be reasonable with lead time to schedule the assessment and expect there will be findings which need to be resolved before getting accredited.



Metal Building Systems (AC472) Frequently Asked Questions

Metal building systems are no longer used for just warehouses or airplane hangars. They are used for car dealerships, office complexes, churches, schools and more. The IAS Metal Building Systems Inspection Accreditation provides verification that approved manufacturers meet requirements as described in Chapter 17 of the International Building Code (IBC).

1 Does IAS AC472 accreditation help fulfill code requirements?

Yes. The program is based on the requirements in Chapter 17 of the International Building Code. Therefore, code officials can accept IAS accreditation as sufficient evidence that manufacturers are in compliance with those requirements of the IBC code, eliminating the need for redundant in-shop inspections. AC472 does not eliminate the need for inspections at the construction site during assembly of the building. The program is based on the [IAS Accreditation Criteria for Inspection Programs for Manufacturers of Metal Building Systems \(AC472\)](#).

2 With conventional construction, I receive a set of design calculations and drawings stamped by a registered professional engineer. Why isn't that adequate for metal building systems?

The IBC code (Chapter 17) does not reference Metal Building Manufacturers specifically, it references Special Inspection of Fabricated items. In conventional construction, the facility fabricating the parts should have special inspections of the fabricated parts. AC472 is specific to Metal Buildings, IAS also maintains Accreditation criteria for Fabricator Inspection Program for Structural Steel (AC172). In the case of Heavy Fabrication, AISC maintains a similar program. The only way to be assured that these functions are being properly integrated is to require that the supplier have AC472 accreditation for a Metal Building or AC172 for other welded structures.

3 Did code officials have a role in developing the IAS AC472 accreditation program?

Absolutely. The IAS AC472 accreditation criteria went through an open public hearing where it was subject to review, revision and final approval by code officials that make up the IAS Accreditation Committee. The criteria is also subject to continuous review and revision at periodic IAS accreditation committee meetings. Every year, there is a board meeting (members are from various building code official departments around the United States) to review any issues that arise and require updating.

4 Why require an accredited manufacturer?

IAS is a subsidiary of the [International Code Council](#). Obtaining an AC472 accredited manufacturer provides an extra level of assurance that the building supplier's engineering/order/design/fabrication processes all conform to high-quality standards and are evaluated by a respected independent third party. Other advantages, which expedite the building approval process, include: building officials that deem AC472-accredited manufacturers satisfy the requirements that Special Inspections are not required per Chapter 17 of the International Building Code; elimination of additional inspections; cost savings to verify code compliance of metal building fabrication; and assurance the metal building manufacturer's staff has a well-qualified management system in place.

5 What if I already have a program in place for approving metal building systems?

It is critical to satisfy the requirements of Special Inspection, that the Special Inspections are not required where the fabricator is registered and Approved in accordance with section 1704.2.5.1 To complement and supplement your program, we recommend that you also require approvals for manufacturers to be accredited to IAS AC472. This will help standardize assessments across jurisdictions around the country, which could result in new businesses coming to your community.

6 How does a fabricator apply for accreditation?

The IAS application, fees, accreditation criteria and related documents are available on the [IAS website](#).

7 How does IAS AC472 save fabricators money?

The IAS accreditation program has made a significant impact on fabricators' bottom line due to the management system required for accreditation. For example, the accreditation criteria requires training and job qualifications for personnel, as well as formal policies and procedures for acquiring materials, calibrating equipment, welding, designing and inspecting jobs. All of these steps enable fabricators to improve production and lower costs by reducing time and materials required for reworking jobs due to errors.

8 How does IAS AC472 accreditation help to best utilize a building department's resources?

Building departments that accept the IAS AC472 accreditation program save staff time and resources that would otherwise be required to manage the application process, assessments, maintenance and publication of an approved list of manufacturers that are qualified to design and fabricate metal building systems.

9 Did the IAS AC472 Accreditation Program replace the AISC-MB certification?

Yes, the IAS AC472 accreditation program, replaced the AISC-MB certification in 2009. The AISC and MBMA jointly decided to end AISC's sponsorship of the Metal Building Certification Program. MBMA and IAS collaborated to develop the metal building accreditation program over a nine-month time frame, from August 2007 through April 2008. The AC472 program was developed through IAS's open public hearing process under the auspices of code officials that comprise the IAS Accreditation Committee. The effort culminated in unanimous approval of AC472 on April 8, 2008.

10 Where do I find a list of companies accredited to AC472?

[Click here.](#)

11 How often are the fabricators assessed under AC472?

Manufacturers are assessed annually by IAS in addition through two unannounced on-site inspections of the firm's design and manufacturing facilities to confirm that the appropriate standards are in place and being applied. This assures building officials that the manufacturer has continually implemented comprehensive quality assurance processes in place that provide high-quality, reliable buildings that are built to code.

12 If I require that only AC472-accredited companies can bid projects in my jurisdiction, will I be restricting competition such that construction costs unfairly rise?

No. The IAS accreditation program was developed to create a level playing field for manufacturers who have demonstrated competence to supply code compliant building systems. In order for a Metal Building Manufacturer to become a member of the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA), they have to become accredited by IAS in this AC472 criteria. There are a significant number of companies with multiple accredited facilities throughout the U.S. who can provide you with competitive choices. A list of accredited firms, along with certificates, can be [seen here](#).

13 How do I contact IAS?

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Deputy Program Manager

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Ph: (865) 617-2711

IAS general email: iasinfo@iasonline.org



METALCON 2020

2020 marks the 30th anniversary of [METALCON](#). This 3-day event at the Las Vegas, Nevada Convention Center October 21-23 will center around metal construction products, technologies and solutions. Stop by the IAS booth to learn about [Metal Building Systems Inspection Accreditation AC472](#) and [Metal Building Assemblers Inspection Accreditation AC478](#).

IAS Accreditation Programs

The following is a list of accreditation programs available from IAS.

Testing Laboratories	Inspection Programs for Manufacturers of Cold-formed Steel Structural and Nonstructural Components not Requiring Welding
Calibration Laboratories	Inspection Practices for Metal Building Assemblers
Cannabis Testing Laboratories	Building Departments
Medical Laboratories	Building Department Service Providers
Inspection Agencies	Fire Prevention and Life Safety Departments
Product Certification Agencies	Field Evaluation Bodies
Personnel Certification Bodies	Curriculum and Instruction Developers
Management Systems	Commissioning Training and Certification Agencies
• Quality	FDA Food Safety Modernization Act Program
• Environmental	
• Food Safety	
• Information Technology	
• Occupational Health & Safety	
Special Inspection Agencies	Reference Material Producer
Fabricator Inspection Programs	Proficiency Testing Provider
• Reinforced Concrete	
• Structural Steel	
• Wood Wall Panels	
Inspection Programs for Manufacturers of Metal Building Systems	

For more information about IAS visit our website at <https://www.iasonline.org/>





Connect With Us

IAS on Social Media

If you haven't connected with IAS on social media platforms, then you are missing out on the latest accreditation news. IAS provides periodic news updates and information on dedicated pages in [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Youtube](#). To find us, go to any of these pages and search for International Accreditation Service.

Promote Your Accreditation

IAS customers can promote their accreditations with IAS Accreditation Program Symbols. The symbols can be used in advertisements, websites, brochures, exhibit booths, and other places to promote IAS accreditation. For accreditation symbols, send email to requestamark@iasonline.org.

Let Us Know What You Think

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