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IAS AccreditCom®

Inspection Agency Accreditation Program NEWSLETTER

IAS

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Welcome to the IAS Newsletter for the Inspection Agency Accreditation Program

This newsletter was created to keep IAS customers and industry professionals informed about important developments related to the IAS Inspection Agency Accreditation Program that may have an impact on your organization and its accreditation.

IAS accredits various types of organizations that perform inspections of materials, products, installations, processes, or services. This accreditation process is based on ISO/IEC Standard 17020 Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection and includes an assessment of each agency's competence to perform inspections and the consistency of their inspection activities.

Accredited inspection bodies benefit from:

- Prompt, personalized service from IAS, including flexible and timely scheduling of assessments.
- Internationally recognized accreditation that serves as a "stamp of approval" for industry and regulators.
- Greater recognition and acceptance of inspection reports across domestic and international borders.
- Cost savings for manufacturers and exporters by reducing or eliminating the need for reinspection in other markets.

The IAS Inspection Agency Accreditation Program is recognized globally, as IAS is a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The MRA supports international trade by promoting confidence and acceptance of accredited inspection reports and certificates.



IAS Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence with Gala and Dinner Event

IAS held its 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala and Dinner on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Brea, California. Technical experts from 15 countries attended this milestone event which honored IAS's legacy of trust, integrity, and leadership in accreditation services around the world.

Since 1975, IAS has become a globally recognized accreditation body, serving government agencies, commercial businesses, and public entities across a wide range of sectors. The 50th Anniversary Gala brought together key stakeholders, accreditation professionals, industry partners, and honored guests to celebrate five decades of service and progress.

The evening included a formal dinner, commemorative program, keynote remarks, and reflections on IAS's evolution and impact across the accreditation landscape. A commemorative publication documenting the 50-year legacy of the organization was released as well as video documenting the legacy.

"This milestone is not just a celebration of our past, but a reaffirmation of our commitment to excellence in the years to come. We looked forward to honoring our dedicated staff, valued clients, and partners who have helped shape IAS into the respected organization it is today,"

said Raj Nathan, President of IAS.



(L-R) Raj Nathan, IAS President, and Sergio T. Ascunce, Chair of IAS Board, present the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Publication during the Gala Celebration.



IAS moves into a New Office



IAS staff have moved into a new office in Brea, California—located within the building that previously housed the IAS headquarters.

"This new space has given us the opportunity to expand our office to accommodate growth," said Raj Nathan, IAS President. "It has also enabled us to update the environment to reflect the IAS brand and modernize the space with better IT and furnishings to support productivity."

IAS's new address is:

3060 Saturn Street, Suite 101, Brea, California 92821

Frequent Findings from Accreditation Assessments

The IAS accreditation process can be a valuable opportunity for inspection agencies to identify areas for improvement and to reduce or prevent risks. A review of common assessment findings can help agencies better prepare for future assessments.

During recent IAS assessments of inspection agencies, the most frequently identified findings were related to:

► Authorization and ongoing monitoring of inspectors

- ◆ Per Clause 6.1.5 of ISO/IEC 17020, all inspectors shall be authorized to carry out the specific inspection activities and should be observed on-site unless there is sufficient documented evidence demonstrating their continued competence. Authorization should be based on the inspector's knowledge, training, experience, and qualifications, where applicable, to ensure compliance with the competency requirements of the inspection agency.
- ◆ According to Clause 6.1.9 Note 2 of ILAC P15, on-site observation should be conducted at least once during each accreditation reassessment cycle, that is, every two years. The inspection agency is expected to establish and implement a monitoring plan to ensure timely evaluation of all inspectors. If an inspector consistently demonstrates satisfactory performance, including technical proficiency and sound judgment, the frequency of monitoring may be reduced.
- ◆ The inspection agency shall maintain complete and up-to-date authorization and monitoring records for each inspector.

► Calibration or verification of inspection equipment

- ◆ The inspection agency shall ensure the suitability of all the equipment used for the inspection through periodic calibration or verification (Clause 6.2.3 of ISO/IEC 17020). According to Clause 6.2.6 of ISO/IEC 17020, measurement equipment having a significant influence on inspection results shall be calibrated before use.
- ◆ If any equipment is not under the direct control of the inspection agency (e.g., client's equipment), the inspector shall verify the calibration status or its function to ensure they meet the requirements of inspection procedures and standards, and the equipment information and verification should be documented. Hence, the inspection agency should identify which equipment requires calibration and select an accredited calibration laboratory to perform the calibration and establish the calibration program to ensure the equipment is calibrated in a timely manner.

Additionally, less frequent findings included:

- ◆ Inadequacies in inspection procedures and recordkeeping
- ◆ Inspection reports lacking key elements required by the applicable standards
- ◆ Delays in addressing findings raised during internal audits and insufficient analysis of risks to impartiality

These findings highlight critical areas where corrective actions are necessary to ensure that the inspection agency maintains impartial, effective, and reliable operations—and consistently delivers valid and accurate inspection services in full compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020.

Extending Your Scope of Accreditation?

Inspection agencies often extend the scope of their accreditation to service a broader range of customers who may wish to use their inspection services. If you plan to expand your scope, it is important to inform IAS before assessors arrive at your regularly scheduled assessment.

IAS assessors plan their work in advance, based on the number of fields and the range defined in your current scope. If you plan to extend the scope of your agency, they might need additional time during their visit. By notifying IAS in advance, the scope extension may be more easily accommodated, helping to avoid scheduling issues and unnecessary costs—and making the assessment process more efficient.



How IAS Accreditation Criteria Are Updated?

If your agency is accredited under the Inspection Agency Accreditation Program, you are likely familiar with the IAS Accreditation Criteria ([AC98](#)) for this program.

To update these criteria, IAS follows a structured process that allows for periodic revisions as needed. Any interested party may propose changes at any time by submitting written revisions to IAS, along with the rationale for the proposed changes. The proposals are reviewed before the IAS Accreditation Committee in a public forum that includes an open discussion session. Following the review, the committee may accept, reject, or modify the proposed revisions.

The most recent IAS Accreditation Committee meeting was held on June 11, 2025.

Have There Been Updates to AC98 That Affect Your Company's Accreditation?

Be prepared for your next assessment by staying up to date on changes to AC98. Staying informed about these updates helps your company prepare in advance and begin implementing any new requirements.

You can view the most current version of the accreditation criteria on the [IAS website](#).

Updates are marked with a vertical line in the margin next to the affected sections.

Access the latest version of [AC98 here](#).



Revision of ISO/IEC 17020—Fundamental Accreditation Standard of Inspection agencies

In December 2022, ISO/CASCO voted to revise ISO/IEC 17020 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*. As a result, ISO/CASCO Working Group 31 was established to lead the revision process.

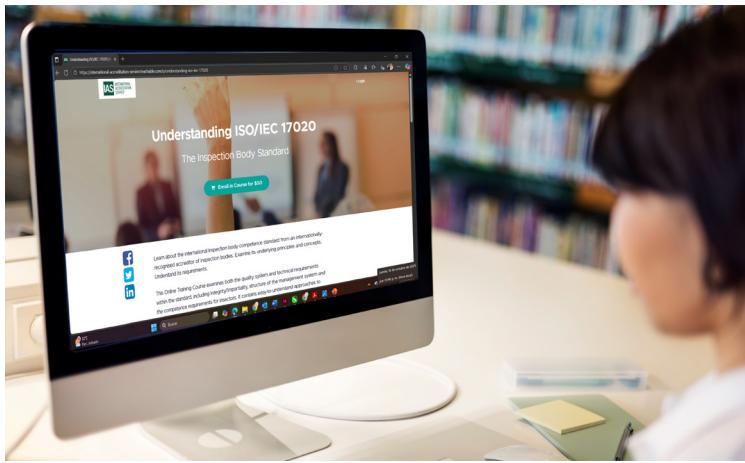
After initial development phases (Working Draft and Committee Draft), the Draft International Standard (ISO/IEC DIS 17020) was released for balloting with deadline of May 2, 2025. If comments from the DIS ballot result in significant changes, a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) is expected to be released for ballot in October or November 2025. The final revised version of the standard is anticipated by late 2025 or early 2026.

Key changes in ISO/IEC DIS 17020: include:

- ⌚ **Title update:** The title has been simplified to *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies performing inspection*
- ⌚ **Management system requirements:** These now align with ISO/CASCO PRO33, which calls for harmonized structure and language across ISO/CASCO standards. New requirements address impartiality, confidentiality, complaints, competence, appeals, and management systems. References to Option A and Option B have been removed, and the frequency of internal audits and management reviews is now left to the discretion of the inspection agency.
- ⌚ **Impartiality requirements:** Independence requirements have been removed. All inspection bodies, regardless of their organizational structure, must meet the same impartiality requirements.
- ⌚ **Types of inspection bodies:** A new classification, “non-Type A,” has been introduced to combine the previous Type B and Type C categories from ISO/IEC 17020:2012.
- ⌚ **Validation of inspection procedures:** Stricter requirements are now in place for validating non-standard inspection methods, using language similar to that found in ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
- ⌚ **Sampling:** Sampling is now treated as a distinct inspection activity or a core part of some inspections, with expanded requirements and greater emphasis.
- ⌚ **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** AI is acknowledged as an emerging tool in inspection activities. While no detailed requirements have been established due to its evolving nature, it is referenced in the standard.
- ⌚ **Risk management:** A new clause has been added to address actions for managing risks and opportunities, consistent with the approach of ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) will determine the transition period for the new standard during its General Assembly meeting in October 2025. Traditionally, ILAC allows a three-year transition period for newly published international standards.

More information will be shared with all interested parties once ILAC announces the official transition period.



Understanding ISO/IEC 17020 – The Inspection Agency Standard (Training)

This online training course from IAS covers both the quality system and technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, including integrity and impartiality, management system structure, and competence requirements for inspectors. It also presents easy-to-understand approaches to continual improvement and handling customer feedback.

The course includes extensive references to international interpretation and implementation guidance documents commonly used by accredited inspection bodies.

[To Learn More, click here.](#)

Need to Update Your Contact with IAS?

Most accredited organizations will eventually need to update the contact person(s) listed in the IAS Portal. Each accredited customer has three designated contacts who receive communication from IAS: a **Technical Contact**, a **Billing Contact**, and a **Legal Contact**. Although some customers use the same person for all three designations, it is best to assign a different individual to each role.

Each contact has their own login credentials. To update this information, customers must log in to the IAS Portal and make the change directly. It is important to keep these details current—and to ensure more than one individual in your organization has access to the login information.

IAS has created a short video demonstrating how to update contact information.

[Watch the instructional video.](#)



Assessor Positions at IAS

IAS is looking for qualified individuals to serve as assessors for the Inspection Agency Accreditation Program. [Learn more about becoming an assessor.](#)



2025 Events

The following events may be of interest to professionals working in inspection agencies:

- ⇒ **ICC Annual Conference**
Cleveland, Ohio | October 19–30, 2025
- ⇒ **2025 API Storage Tank Conference & Expo**
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown in Phoenix, Arizona | Oct 20–23, 2025
- ⇒ **MENDT 2025 – 8th Middle East Nondestructive Testing Conference & Exhibition**
Gulf Convention Center, Gulf Hotel, Bahrain | December 1–4, 2025

Do You Know All the Areas of Inspections Covered by ISO/IEC 17020??

ISO/IEC 17020 applies to inspection bodies of all types and sizes. From large corporations to small teams, agencies accredited to this standard play a vital role in ensuring safety, quality, and compliance across a wide range of industries.

IAS accredits inspection agencies operating in sectors such as agriculture, cosmetics, construction, electronics, environmental services, food, medical devices, mining, petroleum, personal protective equipment, toys, transportation, water, and many more.

If your agency is interested in expanding its scope to include new areas of inspections, contact IAS to learn more.

International Journal of Conformity Assessment

The current issue of the *International Journal of Conformity Assessment* (IJCA) features articles on Artificial Intelligence. Published by IAS for conformity assessment professionals and other practitioners, IJCA aims to advance the fields of testing, inspection, certification, and accreditation by providing a platform to share knowledge, practices, and methods related to global conformity assessment.



Topics covered in the journal include testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, product certification bodies, management system certification bodies, and personnel certification, among others. [Read the latest issue here.](#)

IAS on Social Media

If you haven't connected with IAS on social media platforms, you're missing out on the latest accreditation news and updates. IAS shares periodic announcements and insights on dedicated pages across [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). To find us, visit any of these platforms and search for International Accreditation Service.

Promote Your Accreditation

IAS customers can promote their accreditation using the official IAS Accreditation Program Symbols. The symbols may be used in advertisements, websites, brochures, exhibit booths, and other materials to highlight your IAS accreditation.

To request accreditation symbols, email:
requestamark@iasonline.org.



Let Us Know What You Think

IAS is committed to continually improving its services and welcomes your feedback—positive or negative. We use your input to enhance the support we provide to customers and stakeholders. To share your comments, visit the [Contact Us](#) page of the IAS website.

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is a nonprofit accreditation body and a signatory member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). IAS is a member of the [ICC Family of Solutions](#).

Need Answers? Get in Touch with IAS

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www.iasonline.org



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