



IAS TRANSITION POLICY FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO/IEC 17020:2026

This policy applies to all IAS-accredited Inspection Agencies and covers the following aspects in the transition process to ISO/IEC 17020:2026: Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies performing inspection, published in March 2026. IAS-accredited Inspection Agencies are required to comply with the requirements of this policy to maintain accreditation with IAS.

1. Timeframe of Transition

- a) As per International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) General Assembly Resolution (ILAC Resolution GA 29.22), the ILAC has agreed to a three-year transition period from the date of publication of the standard. The three-year transition period is from March 27, 2026, to March 27, 2029, and at the end of the period, accreditation of an inspection agency to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 will no longer be recognized and valid under the ILAC arrangement.
- b) To ensure the implementation of this transition policy, IAS defined the following transition timelines:

Application	
Accept applications for the new standard ISO/IEC 17020:2026	From June 27, 2026
No longer accept new applications as per the previous standard ISO/IEC 17020:2012	From September 27, 2026
Assessment	
Assessments can be conducted as per the new standard ISO/IEC 17020:2026	From June 27, 2026
All assessments as per the new standard ISO/IEC 17020:2026	From September 27, 2026
Assessments can be conducted as per ISO/IEC 17020:2026 or ISO/IEC 17020:2012 based on the inspection agency's preference	From June 27, 2026, to September 27, 2026
Accreditation	
Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 is <u>no longer</u> valid and recognized	From March 27, 2029

2. Accreditation Documents

- a) All IAS-accredited inspection agencies are required to purchase a copy of the new International Standard ISO/IEC 17020:2026 from relevant standards sellers, such as standard bodies.
- b) Assessment report formats, checklists, and other assessment-related documents for both new and previous standards will be provided to IAS assessors until September 27, 2026, thereafter the assessors shall use the assessment templates relevant to ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

3. Assessment

- a) All accredited inspection agencies shall be assessed to the new standard ISO/IEC 17020: 2026 by March 27, 2029, in combination with either reassessment or surveillance assessment. The surveillance assessment shall cover all requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2026.
- b) The inspection agency may combine the transition assessment with scope extension assessments. During the scope extension assessment, all requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2026 shall be covered.
- c) In exceptional circumstances, a separate assessment may be conducted to verify the inspection agency meets the requirements of the new standard.

4. Failure to Transit to the New Standard

If the accredited inspection agency cannot transit to the new standard before March 27, 2029, the accreditation will be suspended. If the suspension cannot be lifted within six (6) months, the accreditation will be cancelled.

5. Stakeholder Training and Customer Engagement

- a) All ongoing communication and updates critical to the successful conclusion of the transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 will be posted on the following IAS website links:
<https://www.iasonline.org/services/inspection-agencies/>
- b) IAS is offering training events and online webinars to the new standard. Please consult the IAS website (<https://www.iasonline.org/training>) for training dates and venues. If interested in obtaining training to ISO/IEC 17020:2026, please contact IAS at training@iasonline.org.

6. Guidance on the Transition Process for Inspection Agencies

- a) Plan your transition process to the new version of the standard based on the IAS transition policy as outlined above.
- b) Personnel responsible for the transition and implementation of their management system to the new version of the standard will need to be trained.
- c) All relevant personnel need to understand, interpret, and implement the requirements of the new version of the standard.
- d) Perform a gap analysis between the existing management system and the requirements of the new version of standard.

- e) Update management system documentation, including existing policies and procedures as required.
- f) Establish an internal training plan and schedule awareness training for relevant personnel.

7. Contact Information

Further information can be obtained by contacting the inspection agency accreditation program manager at AAassessments@iasonline.org.