



ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR INSPECTION AGENCIES

AC98

June 15, 2026
Effective July 1, 2026

PREFACE

The attached accreditation criteria have been issued to provide all interested parties with guidelines on implementing performance features of the applicable standards referenced herein. The criteria were developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Accreditation Committee and are effective on the date shown above. All accreditations issued or reissued on or after the effective date must comply with these criteria. If the criteria are an updated version from a previous edition, refer to table of revisions at the end of the criteria. These criteria may be further revised as the need dictates.

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ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR INSPECTION AGENCIES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Inspection Agency accreditation. These criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Inspection Agency Accreditation.
- 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).
 - 1.2.1. ISO/IEC 17020: 2026, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies performing inspection.
 - 1.2.2. ISO/IEC 17020: 2012, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
 - 1.2.3. ILAC P15, Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies.
 - 1.2.4. ILAC P10 ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results.
 - 1.2.5. ILAC P9 ILAC Policy for Proficiency Testing and/or Interlaboratory comparisons other than Proficiency Testing.
 - 1.2.6. ILAC P8 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies.
 - 1.2.7. ILAC R7 Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark.
 - 1.2.8. ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.
 - 1.2.9. ILAC G27 Guidance on measurements performed as part of an inspection process.
 - 1.2.10. ILAC G28 Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Inspection Bodies.
 - 1.2.11. ILAC G24: Guidelines for the determination of recalibration intervals of measuring equipment.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Applicable definitions of ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

Accreditation services are available to bodies that provide inspection services.

4.0 REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

Inspection Agencies must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

- 4.1. ISO/IEC 17020:2026, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies performing inspection.
- 4.2. ISO/IEC 17020: 2012, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
- 4.3. IAS/AA/009 IAS Rules of Procedure for Inspection Agency Accreditation.
- 4.4. ILAC P15, Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies.
- 4.5. ILAC P10 ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results.
- 4.6. IAS/ADM/103 IAS Policy on Participation in Proficiency Testing and/or Interlaboratory Comparisons

4.7. IAS/ADM/084 Policy on the use of the ILAC/IAF/IAS Combined Marks

Note: Inspection agencies may choose to be assessed against either ISO/IEC 17020:2012 or ISO/IEC 17020:2026 before September 27, 2026. IAS assessment shall be conducted to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 starting September 27, 2026. Please refer to the IAS transition policy for ISO/IEC 17020:2026 on the IAS website.

5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

5.1. **Regulatory requirements:** Regulatory entities may place specific compliance requirements on inspection agencies. If required to comply with the regulatory requirements as may be applicable, the inspection agency must agree to comply with additional requirements. Inspection agencies must comply with regulatory requirements of Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or other regulatory entities, including specific compliance requirements for qualification, licensing, etc., of personnel and operation of inspection agency.

6.0 LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- 6.1. Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation – www.apac-accreditation.org;
- 6.2. International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.ilac.org
- 6.3. International Organization for Standardization – www.iso.org
- 6.4. International Electrotechnical Commission – www.iec.ch
- 6.5. International Accreditation Service – www.iasonline.org

These criteria were previously issued September 2002, March 2004, May 2005, August 2006, October 2009, June 2013, February 2015, February 2016, April 2017, June 2025, editorially revised January 2019, and February 2022.

Revision Date	Summary of Changes
June 11, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added ILAC P10, P9, P8, R7, G27, and G28• Added IAS/ADM/103 and 084
June 15, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added ISO/IEC 17020:2026• Added ILAC G24• Added Note on IAS transition policy for ISO/IEC 17020:2026