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IAS AccrediCom®

Medical Laboratories Accreditation Program NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the June 2026 issue of the **IAS Medical Laboratories (ML) Accreditation Program** newsletter which aims to share information with customers about areas related to this industry and to contribute to providing a better understanding of the process as you embark on your route to ML accreditation. This issue addresses the new requirements for Point of Care Testing (POCT) included in ISO 15189:2022 edition, the recognized international standard required for accreditation of medical laboratories, information on the new IAS Biobanking Accreditation Program, and an update on Global ACI, the new organization replacing ILAC/IAF. You will also find added updates on IAS training schedules and webinars which are part of our educational and technical development of customers and stakeholders.

Why Medical Laboratory Accreditation?

The Medical Laboratory Accreditation Program operated by IAS provides assurance that laboratories are competent to perform the examinations within their approved scope of accreditation.

The key compliance accreditation standard for medical laboratories is ISO 15189:2022, *Medical laboratories—Requirements for quality and competence*. This standard is generally required by government and private entities for medical laboratories involved in national health programs, public health reporting, or private healthcare services.

The assurance is that accreditation provides an independent third-party assessment of the ML giving more confidence to medical professionals when making medical diagnosis and providing treatment for patients to ensure patient safety and quality health care.

POCT and IAS Accreditation

Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) refers to medical diagnostic examinations performed at or near the site of patient care. The increasing demand for rapid clinical decisions has made POCT an essential component of modern healthcare systems. Nevertheless, because of its decentralized nature, ensuring the quality, reliability, and competence of POCT services has become a critical challenge.



The Accreditation Challenge

Formerly known as bedside examinations (ISO 22870) POCT is now fully integrated with ISO 15189:2022. In clause 3.22 of the standard, point-of-care testing is defined as **“examination performed near or at the site of a patient”**. Why is this important? This is because the latest edition of ISO 15189:2022 now provides a comprehensive framework for accrediting medical laboratories, including POCT activities.

Examinations covered under POCT are conducted outside of traditional laboratory environment by non-laboratory staff such as nurses and doctors. Therefore, robust quality oversight is required to ensure credibility and accuracy of results issued through POCT.

Examples of examinations conducted through POCT such as blood glucose monitoring, blood gas analysis, rapid diagnostic examinations (e.g., infectious diseases), urinalysis are very useful for medical practitioners to make accurate and prompt decisions.

Since ISO 15189:2022 has specific requirements for POCT, IAS has endeavored to develop a specialized checklist/questionnaire providing guidance for medical laboratories to conduct a self-evaluation of its POCT activities before sending their applications or scope extension requests. This will enable IAS and the laboratory to participate in a transparent and well-planned onsite assessment.



Why Extend your Accreditation Scope to Include POCT Activities

Including POCT within the accredited scope under ISO 15189:2022 helps laboratories keep the pace of the evolving nature of laboratory medicine. POCT accreditation ensures that even decentralized examinations meet the same rigorous standards as central laboratories and thus the results can be accepted globally (medical tourism etc.). IAS is a signatory of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI, formerly ILAC) and this signatory status means that results and reports from IAS accredited medical laboratories are recognized in other signatory economies worldwide providing global recognition and acceptance to its accredited laboratories.

The benefits of POCT accreditation are that healthcare organizations can reassure the effectiveness of services by prioritizing and establishing strong governance, training, and quality systems to successfully implement accreditable POCT services. This not only enhances diagnostic reliability but also contributes significantly to better patient outcomes.

Note 1: Laboratories seeking accreditation to ISO 15189 can request a quotation by submitting a quotation request available through the [IAS portal](#).

All quotation requests must accompany the request with the desired scope of accreditation and any details on POCT, if required.

For scope extensions, IAS accredited laboratories may submit requests, including details of POCT, prior to their next assessment. IAS encourages laboratories to plan scope extensions alongside scheduled assessments to reduce costs. However, on request, IAS can also provide a separate assessment to meet laboratory needs.

Upon receipt of laboratory's agreement to include POCT activities, IAS shall be in contact and request more information prior to the onsite assessment.

Note 2: The accredited laboratories under IAS can be located at www.iasonline.org

Preparing for Accreditation

To better prepare for the accreditation process IAS recommends consulting the following documents prior to the assessment activities. These contain the requirements that will be reviewed for compliance during the application process and assessment, to ensure success in accreditation of the laboratory. <https://www.iasonline.org/services/medical-laboratories/>

- ISO 15189:2022: Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence
- AC780 (IAS/ML/001, June 26, 2024): Accreditation Criteria for Medical Laboratories
- IAS/ML/025 (March 5, 2026): IAS Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results for Medical Laboratories
- IAS/ADM/103 (December 16, 2024): IAS Policy on Participation in Proficiency Testing and/or Interlaboratory Comparisons



Upcoming Webinars (August–December 2026)

IAS will be offering a series of [free webinars](#) designed to support medical laboratories in strengthening their quality systems and achieving compliance with international standards. These sessions provide practical guidance on preparing for ISO 15189 accreditation, along with insights into the assessment process for Sample Collection Centers and Point of Care Testing (POCT). Participants will also gain an understanding of key technical requirements, including method validation and measurement traceability, as well as other essential elements related to ISO 15190 and ISO 15189 compliance. Together, these webinars serve as a valuable resource for laboratories seeking to enhance their operations and readiness for accreditation. Below is a list of the free IAS webinars that are available in the coming months. [Learn more.](#)

S.No	Webinar details	Month (2026)
1	Requirements for method validation/verification including equipment traceability in Medical Testing Laboratories as per ISO 15189:2022	August
2	Important aspects in accreditation assessment of Molecular biology laboratories as per ISO 15189:2022	October
3	Application of ISO 15190 in medical laboratories	December



IAS attends WHX Dubai



IAS proudly participated in the WHX Expo Dubai in Dubai with a dedicated stall in February 2026.

The event provided an excellent platform to showcase our accreditation services and engage with a diverse range of international stakeholders from the healthcare sector as well as IAS accredited and applicant medical labs in the region.

The exhibition proved to be a valuable opportunity to promote our medical laboratory accreditation program, particularly in line with ISO 15189:2022. Through direct interactions with laboratory professionals, healthcare providers, and industry experts, we were able to raise awareness about the importance of quality, competence, and international recognition in medical laboratory services.

IAS participation also facilitated meaningful discussions on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in laboratory accreditation, including the growing interest in quality assurance and regulatory compliance across different regions.



Prafulla Yelve, Greg West and L.H.D. Bandusoma.



Mr. Yelve interacts with a customer.



IAS Launches New Biobanking Accreditation Program

IAS is pleased to announce its new accreditation program for biobanking, developed in line with the requirements of **ISO 20387**. This program is designed to support biobanks in demonstrating technical competence, ensuring the integrity of biological materials, and enhancing confidence in research and clinical applications.

These are the accreditation requirements for this new program.

- IAS Accreditation Criteria for Biobanks AC802
- ISO 20387:2018 – Biotechnology – Biobanking – General requirements for biobanking.

IAS accreditation requirements, rules and recommended reading are available on the [IAS website](#)

Join the Biobank List

Get the latest information about accreditation practices, standards, training courses and more, when you join the IAS list for Biobanking. To join, [click here](#).

[REQUEST A QUOTE](#)

To receive a quote for accreditation, please fill out the application found [here](#) and send it to iasinfo@iasonline.org.



Updates to the Accreditation Criteria

If your company is accredited by IAS, then you need to make sure that you are following the most current accreditation criteria (AC). You can see the most current versions of the accreditation criteria on the IAS website. Any updates to the criteria are identified with a vertical line by the affected section of the AC. Being informed of these changes will give you time to start implementing the new requirements before your next assessment. See the latest versions of the criteria in the link below:

[AC780](#)

Please submit comments to the editor at aherrera@iasonline.org if you would like to see specific issues or topics covered in our future newsletters.



Meet the Program Manager

Mr. L.H.D. Bandusoma is currently serving as Program Manager at the International Accreditation Service (IAS). In this role, he is responsible for managing accreditation programs for Medical Laboratories, Proficiency Testing Providers, and Reference Material Producers.

Since 2015, Mr. Bandusoma has been a qualified Lead Peer Evaluator of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) for medical testing. He has conducted numerous peer evaluations of accreditation bodies across the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, he is an APAC trainer, having delivered both national and international training programs on medical laboratory accreditation and accreditation of certification bodies, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers & reference material producer.

As a visiting lecturer at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, of Sri Lanka, Mr. Bandusoma delivers lectures on Corporate Environmental Management, Laboratory Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Medical Laboratory Accreditation and Auditing.

Mr. Bandusoma has more than 22 years of experience in all ISO 17000 series of standards and ISO 15189.

The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated: The New Organization Replacing ILAC and IAF

The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) is an international organization that brings together accreditation bodies to ensure consistent, high-quality accreditation practices across regions and globally in compliance with ISO/IEC 17011. Accreditation Bodies such as IAS are organized in regional groups. The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) is one of the regional groups that integrate the Global ACI. Accreditation Bodies participate in this organization as signatories of a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) which is a key mechanism underpinning this system. This agreement formally recognizes their accreditations as equivalent. A medical laboratory accredited by an MRA signatory body is trusted across borders without the need for re-evaluation. IAS customers benefit from this global recognition as it enhances confidence in the validity of their methods and international acceptance of their laboratory results, facilitating trade, regulatory approvals, and cross-border healthcare collaboration. The MRA provides assurance to regulators that accredited laboratories meet internationally benchmarked standards, reducing duplication of oversight and supporting public health and safety through reliable, comparable testing outcomes worldwide.

Extending Your Scope of Accreditation?

Laboratories often extend the scope of the tests and methods in their accreditation to provide a broader range of services to their customers and expand their business. If you plan to extend your scope at the time of a reassessment, it is important to inform IAS before the assessors arrive at your laboratory for the scheduled visit. IAS assessors plan their work in advance based on the size of your current scope. When you notify IAS ahead of time, the additional scope can be more easily accommodated, helping to avoid scheduling conflicts and unnecessary costs – and making the assessment process more efficient.



International Journal of Conformity Assessment— Metrology in Conformity Assessment

The recently published issue of the *International Journal of Conformity Assessment (IJCA)* focused on the importance of metrology in conformity assessment. Published by IAS, IJCA provides a high-quality platform for the dissemination of knowledge, methodologies, and best practices related to global conformity assessment concepts and practices.

IJCA is intended for both academics and practitioners in the conformity assessment field. The topics covered include testing, inspection, certification, and accreditation. The journal addresses a wide range of conformity assessment areas, including testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, product certification bodies, management system certification bodies, and organizations offering certification of persons, among others.

[Learn More](#)

Medical Laboratory Training Courses

More in-depth training on medical laboratory accreditation is available in the three-day training courses available from IAS. This type of training brings stronger understanding of requirements to improve laboratory quality and competence, enhance patient safety and clinical confidence, as well as:

- effective implementation of risk management,
- better preparation for accreditation,
- increased staff competence and awareness,
- improved internal auditing and gap analysis,
- efficient documentation and process control,
- alignment with international best practices, and
- career and organizational growth.

These courses are generally applicable for medical technologists, laboratory technicians, managers, quality personnel and other related individuals.

Training Titles	Start Date (2026)	Webinar Timed for	Webinar Type
3027 ISO 15189:2022 Understanding the requirements.	August 10	M-East, India, and South Asia	3 days Online
3027 ISO 15189:2022 Understanding the requirements.	December 14	M-East, India, and South Asia	3 days Online

For registration and inquiries: <https://www.iasonline.org/training/ias-training-schedule/>



Assessor Positions at IAS

IAS is looking for qualified individuals to become assessors for all its accreditation programs. [Learn more about becoming an assessor.](#)



BE SURE TO LIKE, FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE:



Promote Your Accreditation

IAS customers can promote their accreditations by using IAS Accreditation Program Symbols. The symbols may be used in advertisements, websites, brochures, exhibit booths, and other promotional materials.



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

Let Us Know What You Think

IAS strives to continually improve our services and welcomes feedback that will help us to provide better service to our clients and stakeholders. Visit the [Contact Us](#) page of the IAS website to share your comments.

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is a nonprofit accreditation body and a signatory member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), and the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated ([Global ACI](#) former IAF/ILAC).

IAS on Social Media

If you haven't connected with IAS on social media, you may be missing out on the latest accreditation news and updates. IAS shares periodic announcements, industry insights, and program information on dedicated pages across [X](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). To find us, simply visit any of these platforms and search for International Accreditation Service. Be sure to like, follow, and subscribe.

Need Answers? Get in Touch with IAS

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