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IAS AccrediCom®

Management Systems Certification Bodies Accreditation Program

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the July issue of the **IAS Management Systems Certification Bodies Accreditation Program** newsletter.

This publication is designed to keep customers and industry professionals informed about important developments at IAS and within the field of management systems certification that may have an impact on your organization and its accreditation. In this issue, you'll find an article on the new Aerospace Quality Management Program, an update on Global ACI, and information on upcoming events and conferences that support the educational and technical development of customers and stakeholders. Please send feedback or suggestions for future topics to

✉ Aherrera@iasonline.org.

IAS accreditation for Management System Certification Bodies demonstrates compliance with **ISO/IEC 17021-1** and provides **recognized assurance that certification marks are respected and trusted by regulators and the marketplace alike**. It affirms the competence and integrity of accredited certification bodies, strengthens confidence in their audit processes, and helps reduce duplication of assessments by other oversight organizations.



Global ACI: The New Organization Unifying 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. An inspection agency accredited by a signatory body is trusted across borders without the need for reevaluation. IAS customers benefit from this global recognition as it enhances confidence in the validity of their accreditation, facilitating trade and regulatory approvals. Global recognition provides assurance to regulators that accredited agencies performing inspections meet internationally benchmarked standards, reducing duplication of oversight and supporting public safety through reliable, comparable inspection standards worldwide.



Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated



Meet Hans Li – IAS Aerospace Program Lead

Hans Li is the Aerospace Program Lead at IAS, supporting the development, oversight, and technical management of the AQMS accreditation program. He has extensive experience in aerospace quality management systems, including AS9100, AS9110, AS9120, AS9104/1, and AS9101 requirements, as well as ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17011 accreditation practices.

Hans has worked with certification bodies and accreditation programs across North America and Asia, with a focus on auditor competence, certification process oversight, witness assessments, and continual improvement of AQMS program effectiveness.



The IAS Aerospace Quality Management Program: **The Value of AS9100 Certification through IAS-Accredited Certification Bodies**

By Hans Li.

Introduction

The aerospace industry operates in one of the most demanding environments in the world. Aircraft, spacecraft, and defense products must perform reliably under extreme conditions while meeting stringent safety, regulatory, and customer requirements. To achieve these objectives, organizations throughout the aerospace supply chain rely on robust quality management systems. Aerospace Quality Management System (AQMS) standards provide a structured framework for ensuring product quality, safety, reliability, risk management, and continual improvement.

Understanding AQMS

AQMS standards are internationally accepted quality management system standards specifically developed for the aerospace, aviation, defense, maintenance, distribution, and related supply chain sectors. They build upon the requirements of ISO 9001 while incorporating additional aerospace-specific requirements that address product safety, risk management, configuration management, counterfeit part prevention, and supply chain control.

These standards were developed through the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) to create a unified quality management approach across the global aerospace sector. Today, AQMS certification is widely required or recognized by major aerospace manufacturers, defense contractors, prime contractors, and global supply chain customers.

Key elements of AQMS standards include:

- Risk-based thinking and risk management
- Product safety management
- Configuration management
- Operational planning and control
- Supplier performance monitoring
- Prevention of counterfeit parts
- Continuous improvement processes
- Leadership commitment and organizational accountability.

By implementing AQMS standards, organizations establish a systematic approach to managing quality throughout the entire product life cycle, from design and development to

production, delivery, and support. The effectiveness and credibility of AS9100 certification are reinforced through the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) Industry Controlled Other Party (ICOP) scheme, which provides a globally harmonized framework for aerospace certification activities. Under this system, certification bodies are accredited by recognized accreditation bodies, such as IAS, and are subject to ongoing oversight, witness assessments, auditor competency requirements, and performance monitoring. This structured oversight helps ensure that AS9100 certifications are issued consistently and reliably throughout the global aerospace industry.

The Role of Quality Management in Aerospace

Quality management is fundamental to aerospace operations because product failures can have serious consequences for safety, mission success, and organizational reputation. Aerospace organizations must consistently demonstrate their ability to meet customer expectations while complying with regulatory and statutory requirements.

An effective AQMS helps organizations:

- Improve product reliability and performance
- Reduce defects and nonconformities
- Enhance customer satisfaction
- Strengthen supplier relationships
- Increase operational efficiency
- Improve risk identification and mitigation
- Support regulatory compliance
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement.

By integrating quality management into daily operations, organizations can achieve greater consistency, traceability, and control across complex aerospace processes.

IAS Accreditation and the Aerospace Certification Infrastructure

A key strength of the aerospace quality management system framework is the rigorous accreditation process that supports certification activities. IAS is an accreditation body, not a certification body. IAS does not directly certify

aerospace organizations to AQMS standards. Instead, IAS accredits competent certification bodies that provide AQMS certification services in accordance with applicable international and aerospace sector requirements, including ISO/IEC 17021-1 and the AS9104-series standards.

IAS evaluates these certification bodies through document reviews, office assessments, witness assessments, and ongoing surveillance activities to verify the effectiveness of their certification processes. This accreditation process helps ensure that certification bodies operate with appropriate competence, impartiality, consistency, and control over certification decisions.

The aerospace sector also utilizes the Online Aerospace Supplier Information System (OASIS), a globally recognized database that supports transparency and oversight within the certification process. OASIS enables the management and validation of certification data and supports confidence among aerospace manufacturers, regulators, suppliers, prime contractors, and other stakeholders. Through these mechanisms, the aerospace industry maintains a high level of trust in AQMS certification and promotes consistent quality expectations across international supply chains.

Advantages of AS9100 Certification

As an accreditation body, IAS does not directly certify aerospace organizations to AS9100. Rather, IAS accredits certification bodies that demonstrate competence to provide AS9100 certification services in accordance with applicable international and aerospace-sector requirements. Achieving AS9100 certification through an IAS-accredited certification body provides significant benefits for aerospace, aviation, and defense organizations of all sizes. It demonstrates that the organization has implemented a quality management system that meets internationally recognized aerospace requirements and that the certification decision has been made by a competent, independently accredited certification body.

1 Enhanced Market Credibility

AQMS certification demonstrates that an organization has established and maintained a quality management system aligned with aerospace sector expectations. This provides customers, regulators, prime contractors, and other stakeholders with confidence in the organization's ability to consistently deliver conforming products and services.

2 Increased Business Opportunities

Many aerospace manufacturers, defense contractors, and supply chain customers require suppliers to hold certification to an applicable AQMS standard, such as AS9100, AS9110, or AS9120, as a condition of doing business. Certification can therefore provide access to new markets, contracts, and supply chain opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable.

3 Improved Customer Confidence

Customers are more likely to trust organizations that have undergone independent third-party assessment and ongoing surveillance. AQMS certification issued by an accredited certification body provides objective evidence that the organization's quality management system has been assessed for conformity and continues to be monitored through the certification cycle.

4 Better Risk Management

The aerospace sector faces significant operational, technical, regulatory, and supply chain risks. Applicable AQMS standards require organizations to identify, evaluate, and manage risks proactively. This structured approach helps reduce disruptions, improve decision-making, and strengthen operational resilience.

5 Stronger Regulatory Compliance

Compliance with applicable aviation, aerospace, defense, statutory, regulatory, and customer requirements is critical. AQMS standards support organizations by requiring documented processes, traceability, corrective action, risk management, configuration control, and performance monitoring.

6 Operational Efficiency and Cost Reduction

Well-defined and consistently implemented processes can help reduce waste, rework, delays, and nonconformities. Organizations often experience improvements in productivity, resource utilization, process control, and overall operational performance after implementing an effective AQMS.

7 Enhanced Supply Chain Performance

Aerospace products frequently involve complex global supply chains. AQMS standards promote effective supplier selection, performance monitoring, risk control, and communication. These requirements help improve supply chain reliability, product conformity, and customer satisfaction.

8 Continuous Improvement Culture

Continual improvement is a core principle of AQMS standards. Organizations are encouraged to analyze performance data, address nonconformities, implement corrective actions, and identify opportunities for improvement that enhance the effectiveness of the quality management system.

Why IAS Accreditation Matters in Aerospace Certification

In the aerospace sector, the credibility of an AQMS certificate depends not only on the certified organization's quality management system, but also on the competence, consistency, and oversight of the certification body that issues the certificate. This is where IAS accreditation plays an important role.

IAS operates within the IAQG Industry Controlled Other Party (ICOP) certification structure as a recognized accreditation body for aerospace quality management system certification bodies. Under this framework, IAS evaluates certification bodies against applicable international and aerospace sector requirements, including ISO/IEC 17021-1 and the AS9104-series standards. This helps ensure that AQMS certifications issued by IAS-accredited certification bodies are supported by a rigorous, transparent, and globally recognized oversight process.

IAS accreditation includes multiple layers of evaluation and surveillance. Certification bodies are assessed through document reviews, office assessments, witness assessments, review of auditor competence, and ongoing monitoring of

certification activities. For aerospace certification, IAS also reviews the certification body's use of qualified aerospace auditors, including Aerospace Experienced Auditors (AEAs), as well as its effective use of the Online Aerospace Supplier Information System (OASIS) for certification reporting, data management, and industry transparency.

This structured oversight strengthens confidence in AQMS certification. Aerospace manufacturers, suppliers, regulators, prime contractors, and other stakeholders rely on accredited certification as evidence that certification decisions are made by competent certification bodies using consistent processes and qualified personnel. By accrediting certification bodies under the IAQG ICOP scheme, IAS contributes to the integrity of the global aerospace certification system and supports confidence across international aerospace supply chains.

IAS accreditation also provides value to certification bodies seeking to expand their capabilities in the aerospace sector. Certification bodies that already operate management system certification programs may benefit from IAS's ability to support both management system certification body accreditation and aerospace quality management system accreditation. This combined capability can help certification bodies develop a more complete certification service portfolio, improve operational efficiency, and better serve clients in aerospace, aviation, defense, maintenance, distribution, and related manufacturing sectors.

For organizations seeking certification to an applicable AQMS standard, such as AS9100, AS9110, or AS9120, choosing a certification body accredited by IAS provides an additional level of confidence. It demonstrates that the certification body has been independently evaluated not only for general management system certification competence, but also for aerospace-specific requirements, auditor qualification, certification process control, and industry reporting obligations. As a result, AQMS certification issued by an IAS-accredited certification body can help organizations strengthen customer trust, demonstrate supply chain readiness, and participate more effectively in the global aerospace market.

In today's highly competitive aerospace market, accredited AQMS certification is more than a compliance tool—it is a strategic business asset. Organizations holding AQMS certificates issued by IAS-accredited certification bodies are often viewed as lower-risk suppliers, making them more attractive partners for aerospace manufacturers, prime contractors, government agencies, and global supply chain customers.

IAS accreditation also demonstrates that the certification body issuing the certificate has been independently evaluated for competence, impartiality, and conformity with applicable accreditation and aerospace-sector requirements. This can strengthen confidence in the certification process, improve stakeholder trust, and support long-term business growth for certified organizations and certification bodies alike.

Conclusion

AQMS standards, including AS9100, AS9110, and AS9120, provide a comprehensive framework for managing quality within the aerospace, aviation, defense, maintenance, distribution, and related supply chain sectors. By addressing industry-specific requirements such as risk management, product safety, configuration management, counterfeit part prevention, and supply chain control, these standards help organizations achieve higher levels of quality, reliability, and performance.

AQMS certification issued by an IAS-accredited certification body delivers numerous advantages, including enhanced credibility, increased market access, improved customer confidence, stronger support for regulatory and customer requirements, and greater operational efficiency. As aerospace technologies continue to evolve and customer expectations increase, organizations that implement applicable AQMS standards and maintain certification issued by an accredited certification body will be well positioned to achieve sustainable success in a highly demanding global industry.



Extending Your Scope of Accreditation

Certification bodies often expand the scope of their accreditation to serve a broader range of customers. If you plan to extend your scope, it is important to notify IAS before assessors arrive for your regularly scheduled assessment.

IAS assessors plan their work in advance based on the fields and ranges defined in your current scope. If you intend to expand your certification agency's scope, additional assessment time may be needed. Early notification helps IAS accommodate the request more efficiently, reduce scheduling challenges, and avoid unnecessary costs.

IAS Documents Related to Scope Extension

To better prepare for the accreditation process, we recommend reviewing the following documents before assessment activities begin. These resources contain the requirements that will be reviewed for compliance and evaluated during the application and assessment process and can help your agency prepare effectively.

- ISO/IEC 17021-1: Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
- AC477: Accreditation Criteria for MSCBs
- IAS MSCB 002 Rules of Procedure for Management System Certification Body Accreditation

Before submitting an application for scope extension, certification bodies are encouraged to conduct a self-check to confirm that the agency is duly prepared for the assessment activities

MSCB Sub-scopes

The IAS Management Systems Certification Body Accreditation Program covers several sub-scopes that offer opportunities for organizations to extend their services. See the sub-scopes covered at IAS: [ISO/IEC Standard 17021-1 - Management System Certification Bodies Accreditation](#).

Applying for Scope Extension

Please contact the IAS at mscb@iasonline.org and provide the proposed scope for expansion. The IAS will review the submission, issue a quote for the scope expansion, and will inform you of the next steps in the assessment process.

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:

AC477

Get a Quote for Accreditation

Certification bodies interested in receiving a complimentary quote to apply for accreditation may click on the button below.

GET A QUOTE

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 into the IAS portal and make the change directly. It is important to keep this information current—and to ensure more than one individual in your organization has access to login information.

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

[Watch the instructional video.](#)



Promote Your Accreditation

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

To request accreditation symbols, email

requestamark@iasonline.org.



Upcoming Events

The following events may be of interest to professionals who work for Management Systems Certification Bodies.

➔ **ArabLab Live** | Dubai, UAE | September 26 -28, 2026

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 medium for the dissemination of knowledge and methods associated with global conformity assessment practices and concepts.

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.

IJCA welcomes contributions on any aspect of conformity assessment. Scholarly contributions from various disciplinary approaches are desirable, however, IJCA encourages novel, visionary, or pathbreaking research articles. Scholarly submissions must be relevant to the conformity assessment field, rigorous both conceptually and methodologically, and well written in a clear, concise, and logical manner. General interest and opinion articles addressing any aspect of conformity assessment are also welcome for consideration.

[Read the latest issue here.](#)



Assessor Positions at IAS

IAS is looking for qualified individuals to become assessors for the Management Systems Certification Bodies Accreditation Program. [Learn more about becoming an assessor.](#)

Let Us Know **What You Think**

IAS is committed to continually improving its services and welcomes your feedback—positive or negative. Your input helps improve the support provided to customers and stakeholders. To share your comments, visit the [Contact Us](#) page on the IAS website

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](#) formerly IAF/ILAC). IAS is a member of the [ICC Family of Solutions](#).

IAS on **Social Media**

If you haven't connected with IAS on social media, you may be missing the latest accreditation news and updates. IAS shares announcements and insights on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). To find IAS, search for International Accreditation Service on any of these platforms.

Need Answers? Get in Touch with IAS

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