

IAS AccrediCom®

Product Certification Agencies Accreditation Program

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



Welcome to the IAS Product Certification Agency Accreditation Program newsletter.

This publication is designed to keep customers and industry professionals informed about important developments at IAS and within the field of product certification that may have an impact on your organization and its accreditation.

In this issue, the feature article is on cybersecurity, product certification and the benefits of accreditation. You will also find an update about Global ACI, and useful information on common findings resulting from recent assessments. Please send feedback or suggestions for future topics to

✉ Aherrera@iasonline.org.

The IAS Product Certification Agency Accreditation is based on the ISO/IEC Standard 17065 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*. Product manufacturers rely on the verification that their products are tested, inspected, and certified to be safe and meet industry standards. IAS PCA accreditation program is recognized worldwide through IAS signatory status in Global ACI.



Global ACI: The New Organization Unifying ILAC and IAF

The **Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)** formerly ILAC and IAF, 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 certification body accredited by a signatory entity should be 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 accreditation, facilitating trade and regulatory approvals. Global recognition provides assurance to regulators that accredited certifiers meet internationally benchmarked standards.



Meet **Mario Andrade** – Program coordinator, Product Certification Accreditation Program, IAS



Mario Andrade serves as Program Coordinator for the Product Certification Accreditation Program at IAS, where he is responsible for engaging with customers from around the world by providing administrative support and addressing their inquiries to meet their expectations

Mario is an industrial engineer with a master's degree in administration, with 22 years of experience in management systems. For the past 14 years, he has been working in accreditation activities and services in North America, currently Program Manager for the product accreditation program in IAS.

Mario is a lead assessor in different accreditation schemes in Product, Inspection, Testing, Persons, and GHG, and he has carried out evaluations in organizations in different parts of the world. He has participated in various working groups within the former International Accreditation Forum (IAF), where he served as Quality Manager from 2020 to 2022. He has participated in webinars, congresses and assemblies related to conformity assessment. He currently lives in Canada, where he continues to perform accreditation activities worldwide.



Cybersecurity and Product Certification: Strengthening Trust Through Accredited Certification

As digital technologies become increasingly embedded in the automotive industry, consumer products, industrial equipment, medical devices, and critical infrastructure, cybersecurity has become a fundamental aspect of product safety and reliability. Products connected to the internet or other networks are exposed to cyber threats that can compromise personal data, disrupt operations, or create safety hazards. As a result, manufacturers, regulators, and consumers are placing greater emphasis on demonstrating that products have been independently evaluated for cybersecurity.

Product certification bodies play a critical role in this process. By assessing products against recognized cybersecurity standards and certification schemes, they provide independent assurance that products meet established security requirements. However, the value of this assurance depends on the competence, impartiality, and consistency of the certification body performing the evaluation. This is where accreditation becomes essential.

The Role of Accreditation

Accreditation provides independent confirmation that a product certification body operates in accordance with **ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services**. Accreditation demonstrates that the certification body has the technical competence, qualified personnel, impartial decision-making processes, and management systems necessary to perform reliable product certification.

For cybersecurity certification, accreditation gives regulators, manufacturers, and end users greater confidence that certifications are based on sound technical evaluations and internationally accepted practices rather than subjective judgment. If expanding a 17065 scope into cybersecurity product certification, the certification body should sufficiently consider applicable regulation, Standards and scheme owner requirements.

Why Cybersecurity Certification Matters

Cybersecurity vulnerabilities can affect products throughout their lifecycle. Software updates, new attack methods, and

evolving technologies require manufacturers to incorporate cybersecurity into product design, testing, and maintenance.

Independent certification helps organizations demonstrate that their products have been evaluated against recognized cybersecurity requirements, reducing uncertainty in the marketplace and supporting regulatory compliance. As governments introduce new cybersecurity legislation and procurement requirements, accredited certification is increasingly becoming an important means of demonstrating conformity.

Benefits of Accredited Cybersecurity Certification

Accredited certification provides significant advantages to both manufacturers and their customers:

- Demonstrates compliance with recognized cybersecurity standards and certification schemes.
- Increases confidence among regulators, purchasers, and end users.
- Supports access to international markets by promoting acceptance of certification results.
- Reduces duplication of evaluations when certifications are recognized across jurisdictions.
- Encourages manufacturers to implement secure development and lifecycle management practices.
- Provides objective evidence that cybersecurity claims have been independently verified.

For certification bodies, accreditation enhances credibility and demonstrates commitment to internationally recognized best practices.

Risks Without Accreditation

Certification performed by organizations that have not been accredited may not provide the same level of confidence. Potential risks include:

- Inconsistent application of certification requirements.
- Insufficient technical expertise in cybersecurity.
- Lack of impartiality or unmanaged conflicts of interest.
- Inadequate oversight of certification decisions.
- Reduced acceptance by regulators, customers, and international markets.
- Increased risk that products with significant vulnerabilities receive certification.

Accreditation helps minimize these risks through regular independent assessments of the certification body's competence and management system.

The Accreditation Process

Although specific accreditation programs may differ, the process generally includes several key steps:

- 1 Application and document review**, where the certification body's management system, procedures, and technical documentation are evaluated.
- 2 Assessment of competence**, including the qualifications and experience of technical personnel, auditors, reviewers, and certification decision-makers.
- 3 Witness assessments**, during which assessors observe certification activities to verify consistent implementation of procedures and technical competence.
- 4 Review of impartiality and decision-making**, ensuring that certification decisions are independent and free from commercial or organizational influence.
- 5 Corrective actions**, where any identified nonconformities are addressed before the accreditation is granted.
- 6 Ongoing surveillance and periodic reassessment**, confirming that the certification body continues to comply with accreditation requirements and maintains its competence over time.

This continual oversight provides confidence that accredited certification remains reliable throughout the accreditation cycle.

Building Confidence in an Increasingly Connected World

As cybersecurity becomes an essential component of product quality and safety, the demand for competent and trustworthy certification will continue to grow. Accredited product certification bodies provide the independent assurance needed to demonstrate that cybersecurity evaluations are technically sound, impartial, and performed in accordance with internationally recognized requirements.

By combining robust cybersecurity standards such as IEC 62443 with accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065, manufacturers, regulators, and consumers can have greater confidence that certified products have been evaluated by organizations that meet the highest standards of competence and integrity. In an increasingly connected world, accreditation is not simply a mark of quality, it is a cornerstone of trust in cybersecurity certification.



Common Assessment Findings in Product Certification Body Accreditation

IAS accreditation assessments verify compliance with ISO/IEC 17065 and identify opportunities to improve product certification body operations. Although each assessment is unique, certain nonconformities appear more often than others. Understanding these recurring findings can help certification bodies strengthen their management systems, improve the consistency of certification activities, and better prepare for future assessments.

Three of the most common areas of nonconformity are.

- **Impartiality and conflict of interest** (Clause 4.2). Typical findings include incomplete identification and review of impartiality risks, inadequate records of impartiality committee activities, personnel involved in consulting activities, insufficient controls over commercial pressures, and a lack of evidence that identified impartiality risks have been effectively mitigated.
- **Personnel competence** (Clause 6.1). Common findings include incomplete competence criteria for auditors, reviewers, and decision-makers; missing competency evaluations; inadequate technical expertise for specific certification scopes; insufficient monitoring of personnel performance; and incomplete or outdated training records.
- **Outsourcing and external resources** (Clause 6.2), including inadequate control of subcontracted evaluation activities, missing agreements defining responsibilities, failure to verify the competence of external evaluators, and insufficient monitoring of outsourced activities.

Regular internal audits, management reviews, and periodic evaluations of these areas can help product certification bodies prevent recurring nonconformities and maintain confidence in the competence, impartiality, and credibility of their certification services.

Stay Informed About Updates to AC370 –Accreditation Criteria for Product Certification Agencies

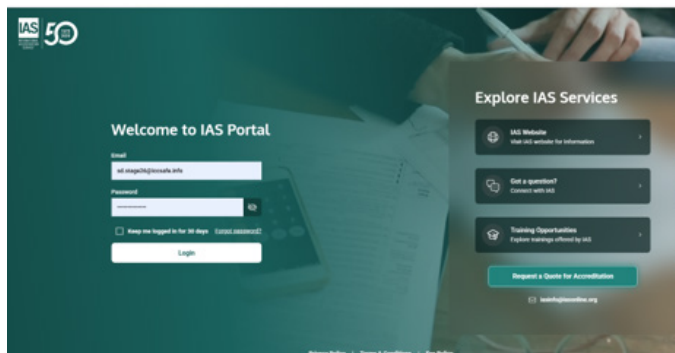
IAS Accreditation Criteria, including AC370, are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes affecting accredited organizations. Interested parties may propose revisions by submitting suggested changes and supporting rationale to IAS. Proposed revisions are reviewed by the IAS Accreditation Committee in a public forum, where they may be accepted, modified, or rejected.

Product certification agencies should regularly check the latest version of AC370 to prepare for assessments and identify any new or revised requirements. Changes to the criteria are typically identified by a vertical line in the margin of the affected sections.

Following the June 2025 Accreditation Committee Hearing, the current AC370 criteria became effective **August 1, 2025**. Laboratories are encouraged to consult the IAS website for the most current version and information about future Accreditation Committee hearings.

IAS Portal Upgrades: What's New for You

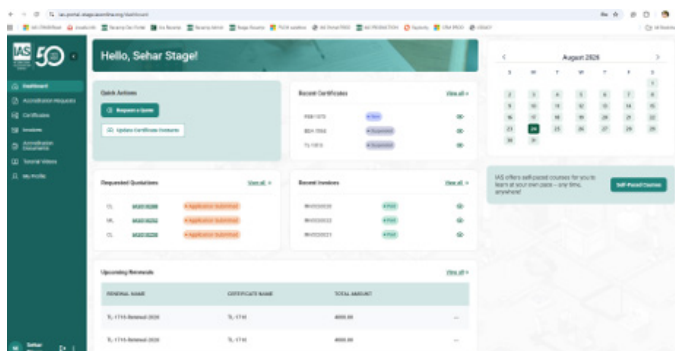
On **July 9, 2026**, IAS officially launched a newly upgraded Portal, redesigning the accreditation experience from the very first click. Whether you are a longtime customer or exploring accreditation for the first time, here is what has changed.



The new IAS Portal welcome page

The journey now starts with a cleaner welcome page, making it easy to request a quote, explore training opportunities, or connect directly with our team for any questions, before creating an account.

Once logged in, customers land on a personalized dashboard that brings everything into one view: recent certificates, quotations, invoices, and upcoming renewals, alongside a calendar and training resources. Certificate contacts can now be updated right from the dashboard, so technical, billing, and legal information stays current without an email to our team. On the Accreditation Requests page, every quote and application shows a clear status, with a simple option to request revision if a quote needs adjusting.



The new customer dashboard

Certificates now appear in an easy-to-scan card layout, with a Renew button that surfaces automatically as expiration approaches. Upcoming renewals can be paid in just a click, and every invoice can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF for easy recordkeeping.

Behind the scenes, IAS staff and assessors are also working more efficiently. A new Export feature supports quarterly reporting, and the Assessment module is now integrated directly into the Staff Portal.

These changes reflect our continued investment in making accreditation with IAS as smooth as possible. Thank you for being part of our community.

For any questions regarding the IAS Portal, you can contact Sehar Hameed at SHameed@iasonline.org or Darien Camacho at DCamacho@iasonline.org.



Important Security Alert: Fraudulent Emails Impersonating IAS Employees

Phishing attempts are increasingly common and sophisticated. These messages may use familiar names, look-alike email domains, and urgent payment requests to trick recipients into sharing information or changing payment instructions.

IAS recently became aware of a phishing attempt in which someone impersonated an IAS Accounting Specialist. The fraudulent message falsely stated that IAS had changed its banking information and instructed recipients to use new payment details.

The fraudulent scam email used an address ending in [@iasonline.co](mailto:iasonline.co). Legitimate IAS email addresses use the [@iasonline.org](mailto:iasonline.org) domain, including Jamie Lee Karim's valid IAS email address.

How to Recognize Phishing Emails:

- ➡ Check the sender's full email address for misspellings, extra characters, or look-alike domains.
- ➡ Be cautious of messages that create urgency or request immediate changes to payment, banking, or account information.
- ➡ Look for unusual wording, formatting issues, or requests that seem inconsistent with normal IAS communications.
- ➡ Do not rely on links, attachments, or payment instructions simply because the message appears to come from a familiar name.
- ➡ Verify any request involving banking or payment information by contacting IAS directly using known contact information, not contact details provided in the suspicious message.

What You Should Do:

- If you receive a suspicious email, do not reply, click any links, open attachments, or provide information.
- Delete the email or report it as phishing through your email system.
- Do not update, send, or confirm payment information based on instructions in a suspicious or fraudulent message.
- If you are unsure whether a request is legitimate, contact IAS directly at 562-364-8201 before taking any action.
- Organizations should also review internal security procedures with their IT staff to help prevent phishing and other fraudulent activity.

If You Responded to a Suspicious Email:

If you replied to the email, clicked a link, opened an attachment, or shared information, notify your IT department immediately and contact IAS management at 562-364-8201.

Protecting our customers and business partners is a top priority. Thank you for staying vigilant and helping prevent fraudulent activity.

International Journal of Conformity Assessment— Metrology in Conformity Assessment

The current issue of the *International Journal of Conformity Assessment* (IJCA) focuses on the Importance of Metrology in Conformity Assessment. Topics in this issue include the digital transformation of calibration management through the eTransCal system; the role of accreditation in economic diversification in the Gulf region; updated risk-based requirements for proficiency testing and interlaboratory comparisons; the importance of measurement traceability; the value of external quality assessment in improving diagnostic reliability; metrology's central role in conformity assessment; applications in sports; and the alignment of standards and regulations with sustainable development goals

Published by IAS, the 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.

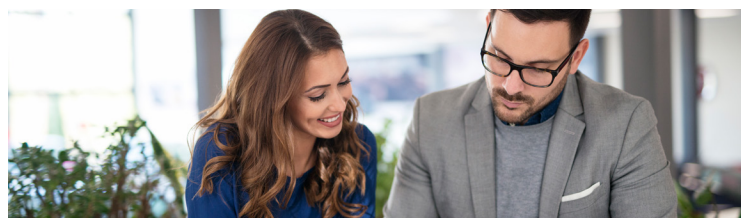
IJCA welcomes contributions on any aspect of conformity assessment, including testing, inspection, certification, and accreditation. Scholarly contributions from various disciplinary approaches are desirable, as well as novel, visionary, or pathbreaking research articles.

However, general interest and opinion articles addressing any aspect of conformity assessment are also welcome for consideration. All submissions must be relevant to the conformity assessment field, rigorous both conceptually and methodologically, and well written in a clear, concise, and logical manner. [Read the latest issue here.](#)



Promote Your Accreditation

IAS customers can showcase their accreditation using official IAS Accreditation Program symbols, which may be displayed in advertisements and brochures, on websites, at exhibit booths, and in other promotional materials. To request accreditation symbols, email requestamark@iasonline.org.



Assessor Positions at IAS

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

Extending Your Scope of Accreditation?

Notify IAS before your regular assessment if you plan to extend your scope. Assessors schedule their work in advance based on your scope size and product types, and additional time may be needed for witnessing. Advance notice can help IAS accommodate the change and make the assessment more efficient and cost-effective.

Let Us Know What You Think

IAS is committed to continually improving our services and values your feedback. We use your input to enhance the support we provide to customers 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](#) formerly IAF/ILAC).

Need Answers? Get in Touch with IAS

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IAS on Social Media

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