

IAS AccreditCom®

Testing Laboratory Accreditation Programs

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER **2026**

Welcome to the November issue of the **IAS Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** newsletter.

The purpose of this publication is to keep the IAS testing laboratory community informed about the latest technical, administrative, and program developments that support a consistent and effective accreditation process.

IAS ensures that testing laboratories comply to ISO/IEC 17025, and industry-specific standards. This activity demonstrate to the marketplace and to regulators that accredited testing laboratories have met the IAS policies and all the standard's requirements and are periodically monitored for compliance.

Please send your comments and suggestions on the contents of this newsletter to ✉ Aherrera@iasonline.org.





Meet Alex Uraine – Program coordinator, Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program, IAS

Mr. Alex Uraine serves as Program Coordinator for the Testing Laboratory Program at IAS, where he is responsible for coordinating assessment schedules, maintaining accreditation records, and supporting customers and assessment teams throughout the accreditation process. He engages with customers from around the world by providing administrative support and addressing their inquiries to meet their expectations. Alex also assists with conducting assessments for testing laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 Quality system. Before joining IAS in 2023, Alex worked in logistics and customer service, bringing a strong background in organization, communication, and customer support to his current role.

Mr. Uraine holds a bachelor's degree from California State University Fullerton. He has also completed several professional certification courses in quality management systems for diverse IAS accreditation programs.

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 calibration laboratory accredited by a signatory entity is trusted across borders without the need for re-evaluation. IAS accredited laboratories 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 laboratories meet internationally benchmarked standards.

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated



IAS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE®



Frequent Assessment Findings in **Food Testing Laboratories**

At IAS, we support testing laboratories in continuously improving their management systems and technical operations. This article highlights common challenges in food testing laboratories, many of which may also apply to other laboratories.

Here are nonconformities that IAS assessors have found during assessments across all different areas such as technical records, method control, equipment, competency, quality control, and the laboratory's management system.

Some of the most frequently encountered findings in food laboratories include:

- **Method verification/validation deficiencies (7.2):** Incomplete verification of standard methods before implementation; insufficient validation of modified or laboratory-developed methods; acceptance criteria not established in advance; or changes to methods not adequately evaluated and documented.
- **Personnel competency (6.2):** Training records exist, but objective evidence of competency is weak. Common examples include missing initial competency assessments, overdue reassessments, unclear authorization to perform specific tests, or insufficient evidence that analysts can independently perform the activities for which they are authorized.
- **Equipment and calibration (6.4):** Calibration or intermediate checks are overdue, acceptance criteria aren't defined, equipment status isn't clearly identified, or the laboratory hasn't adequately assessed the impact of equipment found outside specifications. Temperature-controlled equipment is another frequent source of findings.
- **Metrological traceability (6.5):** Reference standards, certified reference materials, balances, thermometers, pipettes, or other critical measurements lack adequate traceability or documentation supporting the required measurement chain.
- **Reagents, media, and reference materials:** Inadequate preparation or QC records, expired materials, incomplete lot verification, missing traceability, or improper storage. For microbiology laboratories, culture media performance testing and reference culture controls can be particularly important.
- **Technical records (7.5):** Records don't contain enough information to reconstruct the test. Missing analyst identification, dates/times, equipment IDs, reagent or media lots, original observations, calculations, deviations, or changes to records are typical examples.
- **Ensuring validity of results / QC (7.7):** QC activities are performed but trends aren't evaluated, acceptance criteria aren't clearly established, failures aren't adequately investigated, or proficiency-testing results aren't appropriately reviewed and acted upon.
- **Measurement uncertainty (7.6):** The laboratory hasn't adequately identified significant contributors to uncertainty, calculations aren't current, assumptions aren't justified, or uncertainty isn't reevaluated following significant method/equipment changes. Applicability differs somewhat between quantitative chemistry and qualitative microbiological methods.
- **Sample handling (7.4):** Problems with sample identification, chain of custody, storage temperatures, sample condition on receipt, holding times, or documentation of deviations from specified sample requirements.
- **Reporting of results (7.8):** Reports omit required information, don't clearly identify methods or deviations, contain inappropriate statements of conformity, or aren't adequately controlled when amended.
- **Control of data and LIMS/spreadsheets (7.11):** Unvalidated spreadsheets, calculation formulas, or LIMS functions; inadequate access controls; insufficient backup controls; or changes to computerized systems that weren't appropriately verified.
- **Nonconforming work and corrective action (7.10 / 8.7):** The immediate problem is corrected, but the laboratory doesn't adequately evaluate the extent of the issue, nor determine whether previously reported results were affected, establish root cause, or verify that corrective action was effective.
- **Document and record control (8.3 / 8.4):** Obsolete procedures remain available at workstations, uncontrolled forms are being used, revisions aren't properly approved, or records aren't retained according to established requirements.
- **Internal audits (8.8):** Audits don't adequately cover all ISO 17025 requirements or all relevant laboratory activities over the established audit cycle. Auditors may also document compliance without collecting sufficient objective evidence.
- **Management review (8.9):** Required inputs or outputs are missing, discussions aren't sufficiently documented, or identified actions aren't assigned and followed through to completion.

Food microbiology testing laboratories might want to pay particular attention to media QC, reference cultures, incubator/refrigerator temperatures, environmental conditions, analyst competency, method verification, positive/negative controls, sample preparation and dilutions, and prevention of cross-contamination.

Food chemical testing laboratories might find frequent risk areas that include calibration curves, reference standards, standard preparation and traceability, instrument calibration/maintenance, recovery and precision controls, detection/quantitation limits, measurement uncertainty, and chromatographic integration practices.

We hope this information is useful when preparing for your next assessment or internal audit and to maintain the required standards of quality and technical competence necessary for the acceptable performance of your laboratory.



The **FDA's New QMSR** Framework

In the *Quality Magazine* article **"Beyond the Checklist: Mastering the FDA's New QMSR Framework,"** Mathangi Srinivasan explains the significant shift in U.S. medical-device quality regulation following the FDA's implementation of the **Quality Management System Regulation (QMSR) on February 2, 2026**. (Read the full article at: Medical | July 2026 | Quality).

Dimitrios Katsieris, IAS Global Accreditations Vice President, writes:

QMSR Transition: What It Means for IAS-Accredited Testing Laboratories

February 2, 2026 marked the formal end of the FDA's two-year transition from the legacy Quality System Regulation (QSR) to the new Quality Management System Regulation (QMSR). By incorporating ISO 13485:2016 into 21 CFR Part 820, QMSR harmonizes U.S. cGMP requirements with an internationally recognized, risk-based framework across the medical device lifecycle.

For ISO/IEC 17025 testing laboratories, this shift elevates the role of method validation, measurement traceability, and data integrity as core inputs to manufacturers' risk management under ISO 14971:2019. Laboratory evidence now directly supports compliance with key U.S. obligations, including Medical Device Reporting (21 CFR Part 803) and Corrections and Removals (21 CFR Part 806), rather than remaining standalone technical outputs. At the same time, FDA's Compliance Program CP 7382.850 replaces QSIT, focusing inspections on how quality data—including accredited test results—flows through complaint handling, CAPA, and lifecycle risk reviews.

IAS-accredited ISO/IEC 17025 labs should therefore ensure their reports, decision rules, and trending information align with clients' QMSR and ISO 13485 structures, positioning their work as inspection-ready evidence in this new regulatory era.

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

Stay Informed About Updates to AC89

Accreditation Criteria for Testing Laboratories

IAS Accreditation Criteria, including AC89, 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.

Testing laboratories should regularly check the latest version of AC89 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 AC89 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.



Training for Testing Laboratories

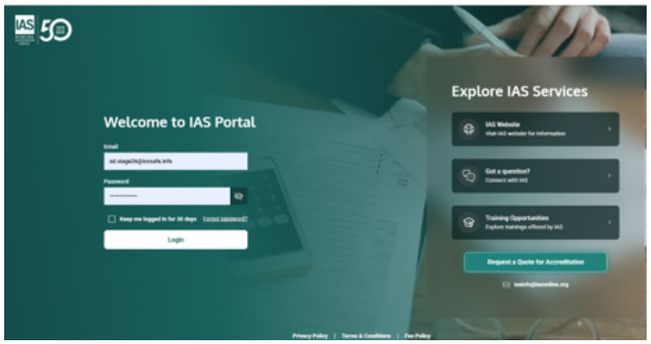
IAS offers multiple training courses that help participants learn about key topics related to accreditation for testing and calibration laboratories. These courses are offered in live sessions in different time zones to accommodate the needs of our global customers. Training topics include:

- Understanding ISO/IEC 17025 for Testing and Calibration Labs
- Uncertainty of Measurement for Labs
- Internal Auditing for all Standards

View the complete training schedule and descriptions of courses.

IAS Portal Upgrades: What's New for You

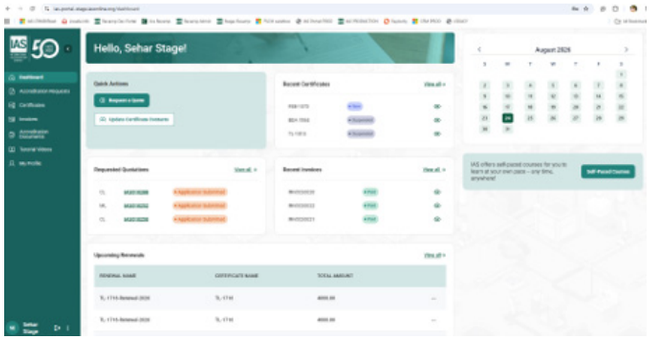
On **July 9, 2026,** IAS officially launched a newly upgraded Portal, redesigning the accreditation experience from the very first click. Whether you are a longtime customer or exploring accreditation for the first time, here is what has changed.



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.

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.

Assessor Positions at IAS

IAS is looking for qualified individuals to become assessors for the Testing Laboratory Program. Learn more about becoming an assessor.



2026 Events

The following events may be of interest to professionals who work for testing laboratories.

- **ACIL Annual Meeting**
  San Francisco, USA | Nov. 10–12, 2026
- **Analytica China**
  Shanghai, China | Nov. 16–18, 2026
- **WHX / Labs**
  Dubai, UAE | Jan. 25–28, 2027

IAS at the **IAFP Annual Meeting**

IAS was pleased to participate in the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting, held July 26–29 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Representing IAS, Dimitrios Katsieris and Duncan Millar connected with food industry professionals and partners, exchanging insights and strengthening relationships around the shared commitment to food protection and safety. IAS was proud to be part of this important industry gathering and the conversations shaping the future of food safety.



Dimitrios Katsieris and Duncan Millar of IAS with Julie Fernandez of Raising Cane's at the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Great to connect at one of the food industry's key gatherings focused on advancing food safety and protection.

IAS Participates in **2026 Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine Conference**

ADLM Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine™

IAS was pleased to exhibit at the Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (ADLM) Conference, June 26-30, in Anaheim, California. The event enabled IAS to connect with laboratory professionals and industry leaders from across the clinical laboratory community.

Emily Pao, Greg West, and Dimitrios Katsieris represented IAS at the event, engaging with attendees and sharing information about IAS accreditation programs and services. Attendees learned about IAS accreditation programs for medical laboratories, testing and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, and health-sector management system certification bodies.

IAS appreciates everyone who stopped by our booth and connected with our team. We look forward to continuing these conversations and supporting laboratories in their pursuit of quality and excellence.

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.

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

ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENTS, SCHEDULING AND MANAGEMENT

- **Dimitrios Katsieris,** Program Manager
  dimitriosk@iasonline.org
- **Alex Uraine,** Program Coordinator
  AlexU@iasonline.org
- **Praful G Yelve,** Accredtation Manager - Asia/Middle East
  pyelve@iasonline.org
- **Aalia Mohammed,** Program Support
  aaliam@iasonline.org
- **Deeparani Murugan,** Program Coordinator
  dmurugan@iasonline.org
- **Greg West,** Senior Vice President
  gwest@iasonline.org

INVOICES, ACCOUNTING

- **Jamie Lee Karim,** jlkarim@iasonline.org
- **Amy Gensicke,** agensicke@iasonline.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Laura Uraine,** luraine@iasonline.org

IAS on **Social Media**

If you haven't connected with IAS on social media, you may miss 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.

IAS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE®

BE SURE TO LIKE, FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE: