

## **Frequently Asked Questions IAS AC472 Accredited Inspection Program for Manufacturer of Metal Building Systems**

Metal building systems are no longer used for just warehouses or airplane hangars. They are used for car dealerships, office complexes, churches, schools and more. The IAS Metal Building Systems Inspection Accreditation provides verification that approved manufacturers meet requirements as described in Chapter 17 of the IBC.

### **1. Does IAS AC472 accreditation help fulfill code requirements?**

Yes. The program is based on the requirements in Chapter 17 of the International Building Code. Therefore, code officials can accept IAS accreditation as sufficient evidence that manufacturers are in compliance with those requirements of the IBC code, eliminating the need for redundant in-shop inspections. AC472 does not eliminate the need for inspections at the construction site during assembly of the building. The program is based on the [IAS Accreditation Criteria for Inspection Programs for Manufacturers of Metal Building Systems \(AC472\)](#).

### **2. With conventional construction, I receive a set of design calculations and drawings stamped by a registered professional engineer. Why isn't that adequate for metal building systems?**

The IBC code (Chapter 17) does not reference Metal Building Manufacturers specifically, it references Special Inspection of Fabricated items. In conventional construction, the facility fabricating the parts should have special Inspections of the fabricated parts. AC472 is specific to Metal Buildings, IAS also maintains Accreditation criteria for Fabricator Inspection Program for Structural Steel (AC172). In the case of Heavy Fabrication, AISC maintains a similar program. The only way to be assured that these functions are being properly integrated is to require that the supplier have AC472 accreditation for a Metal Building or AC172 for other welded structures.

### **3. Did code officials have a role in developing the IAS AC472 accreditation program?**

Absolutely. The IAS AC472 accreditation criteria went through an open public hearing where it was subject to review, revision and final approval by code officials that make up the IAS Accreditation Committee. The criteria is also subject to continuous review and revision at periodic IAS accreditation committee meetings. Every year, there is a board meeting (members are from various building code official departments around the United States) to review any issues

that arise and require updating.

**4. Why require an accredited manufacturer?**

IAS is a subsidiary of the [International Code Council](#). Obtaining an AC472 accredited manufacturer provides an extra level of assurance that the building supplier's engineering/order/design/ fabrication processes all conform to high-quality standards and are evaluated by a respected independent third party. Other advantages, which expedite the building approval process, include: building officials that deem AC472-accredited manufacturers satisfy the requirements that Special Inspections are not required per Chapter 17 of the International Building Code; elimination of additional inspections; cost savings to verify code compliance of metal building fabrication; and assurance the metal building manufacturer's staff has a well-qualified management system in place.

**5. What if I already have a program in place for approving metal building systems?**

It is critical to satisfy the requirements of Special Inspection, that the Special Inspections are not required where the fabricator is registered and Approved in accordance with section 1704.2.5.1 To complement and supplement your program, we recommend that you also require approvals for manufacturers to be accredited to IAS AC472. This will help standardize assessments across jurisdictions around the country, which could result in new businesses coming to your community.

**6. How does a fabricator apply for accreditation?**

The IAS application, fees, accreditation criteria and related documents are available on the [IAS website](#).

**7. How does IAS AC472 save fabricators money?**

The IAS accreditation program has made a significant impact on fabricators' bottom line due to the management system required for accreditation. For example, the accreditation criteria requires training and job qualifications for personnel, as well as formal policies and procedures for acquiring materials, calibrating equipment, welding, designing and inspecting jobs. All of these steps enable fabricators to improve production and lower costs by reducing time and materials required for reworking jobs due to errors.

**8. How does IAS AC472 accreditation help to best utilize a building department's resources?**

Building departments that accept the IAS 472 accreditation program save staff time

and resources that would otherwise be required to manage the application process, assessments, maintenance and publication of an approved list of manufacturers that are qualified to design and fabricate metal building systems.

**9. Did the IAS AC472 Accreditation Program replace the AISC-MB certification?**

Yes, the IAS AC472 accreditation program, replaced the AISC-MB certification in 2009. The AISC and MBMA jointly decided to end AISC's sponsorship of the Metal Building Certification Program. MBMA and IAS collaborated to develop the metal building accreditation program over a nine-month time frame, from August 2007 through April 2008. The AC 472 program was developed through IAS's open public hearing process under the auspices of code officials that comprise the IAS Accreditation Committee. The effort culminated in unanimous approval of AC472 on April 8, 2008.

**10. Where do I find a list of companies accredited to AC472?**

[Click here.](#)

**11. How often are the fabricators assessed under AC472?**

Manufacturers are assessed annually by IAS in addition through two unannounced on-site inspections of the firm's design and manufacturing facilities to confirm that the appropriate standards are in place and being applied. This assures building officials that the manufacturer has continually implemented comprehensive quality assurance processes in place that provide high-quality, reliable buildings that are built to code.

**12. If I require that only AC472-accredited companies can bid projects in my jurisdiction, will I be restricting competition such that construction costs unfairly rise?**

No. The IAS accreditation program was developed to create a level playing field for manufacturers who have demonstrated competence to supply code compliant building systems. In order for a Metal Building Manufacturer to become a member of the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA), they have to become accredited by IAS in this AC472 criteria. There are a significant number of companies with multiple accredited facilities throughout the U.S. who can provide you with competitive choices. A list of accredited firms, along with certificates, can be [seen here](#).



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### **13. How do I contact IAS?**

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