



INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION
SERVICE®

Metal Building Assembler Inspection Accreditation Program

IAS Accreditation is the standard for recognizing
Metal Building Assemblers



Metal Building Assembler Inspection Accreditation

The Metal Building Assembler Inspection Accreditation program is the benchmark used to identify competent companies that assemble metal buildings. The accreditation program was developed by the International Accreditation Service (IAS), with support from code officials and professionals in the building industry.

What is IAS AC478?

IAS AC478 is the IAS Accreditation Criteria that lists the inspection requirements that Metal Building System Assemblers must follow in order to achieve accreditation with IAS. The criteria is available for download at www.iasonline.org/ac478.

What is the management system that Metal Building Assemblers need to implement to become accredited?

The management system is a set of documents that describes the assembly procedures and inspection processes for ensuring that constructed assemblies meet the specified requirements. Requirements for the management system documentation are listed in AC478. Work must conform to the local building code requirements and include the referenced standards.

What happens during an onsite assessment?

IAS will schedule an assessment to observe the inspection practices of the metal building assembler on jobsites and in the applicant's office. The purpose of this assessment is for the metal building assembler to provide evidence that they are following the management system and inspection practices and related criteria in AC478. This includes evidence of following safety plans, training programs, inspection protocols and the organization's method of determining compliance.

How do I apply for accreditation?

Visit <https://www.iasonline.org/services/metal-building-assemblers/>

About IAS

IAS is a nonprofit corporation, a member of the ICC Family of Solutions, and a globally recognized accreditation body.



Metal building assemblers maintaining an IAS AC478 accredited inspection program are the preferred choice of metal building manufacturers. International Accreditation Service (IAS) provides impartial verification that companies accredited to AC478 have management and inspection procedures that enable them to assemble metal building systems in accordance with specified construction and code requirements.

Who Should Apply for Accreditation?

Contractors and erectors who are substantially engaged in Metal Building Assembly and have a commitment to quality, safety and training.

What is Accreditation?

- Accreditation is used worldwide to verify the competence of companies and organizations.
- Accreditation involves a formal onsite assessment and ongoing monitoring performed by a thirdparty (accrediting organization) to determine if a company or entity has demonstrated competence and meets specified requirements to perform specific tasks.

Why IAS Accreditation?

- IAS accreditation is recognized as a reliable indicator of technical competence.
- IAS accreditation is used by organizations to improve the quality and technical capabilities of their services and to improve their public image and marketability.
- IAS has worked with metal building erectors, metal building manufacturers, industry professionals and building departments to develop widely accepted accreditation programs.
- IAS accreditation is recognized by most federal, state and local governmental bodies.
- IAS is a third-party, nonprofit, internationally recognized accreditation body that is regularly evaluated for compliance with international standards by peer accrediting organizations worldwide.

Overview – The Accreditation Process

AC478 is an accreditation criteria that establishes requirements for a voluntary inspection program for assemblers of metal building systems. The following is a brief overview of the steps to follow for companies interested in pursuing accreditation under AC478:

1. Download the Accreditation Criteria (AC478), IAS Rules of Procedure and the application for accreditation from www.iasonline.org/ac478
2. Document and implement a management system that is based on the requirements in AC478, and that has been approved by IAS.
3. Submit the management system documentation, completed accreditation application and applicable fees to IAS.
4. Schedule an onsite joint assessment with IAS to verify compliance with AC478. At the end of this assessment, IAS will provide a report of its findings, including opportunities for improvement, concerns or nonconformances (if any) found during the onsite assessment.
5. IAS issues a Certificate of Accreditation once it has verified the assembler's inspection program has met all the criteria in AC478. The certificate will be placed online at www.iasonline.org for download 24/7.

IAS Accreditation Mark

IAS accredited metal building assemblers may use the IAS mark to promote their company to new and current customers.



Professional Advancement

The Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association (MBCEA) supports the IAS AC478 Accreditation for the professional advancement of the metal building contractors and erectors industry.



Who is accredited?

Companies that erect metal buildings used for shopping centers, churches, schools, etc.

How does it work?

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) assesses metal building assembly companies across multiple areas (erection activities, safety training, management system, personnel qualifications, compliance with project specifications). The assessment is based on IAS Accreditation Criteria AC478. Companies that demonstrate competence by meeting the requirements in AC478 are issued an IAS Certificate of Accreditation

How does it benefit Building Departments?

It helps building departments ensure metal buildings are assembled by competent companies with qualified personnel and to specifications.

What can Building Departments do?

Building Departments can verify if companies are accredited to IAS AC478 by viewing their Certificate of Accreditation on the IAS website www.iasonline.org/assembly. Companies that are not accredited can be referred to IAS. Building Departments can also volunteer to participate in IAS meetings to maintain accreditation criteria.

What can Architects do?

Architects can specify that metal building assemblers accredited to IAS AC478 are preferred to assemble their metal buildings. An example of the specification language can be found at <https://www.iasonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Spec-Language-AC478.pdf>.

How does it benefit Architects and Owners?

Specifying accredited assemblers provides assurance that an independent, nationally recognized accrediting organization has evaluated the metal building assembler across multiple areas (erection activities, safety, training, management system, personnel qualifications, compliance with project specifications) and found it meets the industry accreditation standard.

Accredited Companies

The following companies have been accredited and others are in the process. Please refer companies that your department would like to be accredited by IAS.



AC472 + AC478 = A Winning Combination.

IAS also accredits companies that design and fabricate pre-engineered metal building systems under has the IAS Metal Building Systems Accreditation Program, also known as IAS AC472. The metal building systems fabricated by IAS AC472 accredited companies are then assembled by companies accredited to IAS AC478.



Giving Building Departments and Architects Confidence in Companies that Assemble Metal Buildings.



IAS is a member of the ICC Family of Solutions

For More Information

- www.iasonline.org/assembly
- www.iasonline.org/services/metal-building-assemblers/