

Letter from the President

From the President's Desk



It is indeed hard to believe that it is almost six months since I have worked at the IAS office in Brea, California, which we hurriedly closed-down in mid-March in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Even in my

wildest dreams, I never imagined we would all be talking to each other constantly from an electronic box! It is even more surprising that while our physical world became confined to a much smaller space, our professional world expanded overnight to bring us all together, seemingly without a hitch in the Wi-Fi! I have now spoken to hundreds of people globally while sitting in my home office and conversed with folks who I previously used to mostly exchange emails. I am glad to share that our staff, assessors and the extended family have largely been spared the virus. We hope and pray that those of you who are reading this, and your near and dear ones, are keeping safe and healthy.

Meanwhile, as many experts globally have pointed-out across most industries, productivity has rapidly increased and the focus and intensity of work has been surprisingly positive. Inevitably there are exceptions to this statement, especially those industries and activities, which have been negatively impacted by the crisis in numerous ways. The IAS assessment teams went into virtual mode immediately and continue to effectively discharge our obligations under the MRA/MLA requirements, and serve our far-flung customers. The global conformity assessment community has come out with new policies, guidelines and mechanisms to continue to keep the assessment process relevant and provide the needed assurance, while distancing safely. The phrase, 'paradigm shift,' in this instance is truly relevant.

While many organizations cancelled their annual meetings and conclaves, IAS has ramped-up its activity online by holding multiple events such as: California ELAP Webinars (4 events); Global

Management System Certification Body Technical Conclave; Food Technical Advisory Council; and 26 training courses delivered to over 750 people, among other activities.

I am pleased to note the addition of our newest member to the IAS Board of Directors (BOD), Samuel (Sam) Palmer, P.E., CBO. Palmer has served as chairman of the IAS Accreditation Committee for three years. He was also chairman of the State of Nevada Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Palmer has been the assistant director for the Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention in Las Vegas, Nevada, since 2013. The IAS BOD, under Chairperson Rocco Davis' leadership, continues to provide steady and insightful guidance to IAS management and staff.

On a personal note, I was elected to the APAC (Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation) Executive Committee for a 3-year term. In addition, IAS management, staff and assessors, serve on multiple technical committees in ILAC, IAF and APAC.

As we move into the final quarter of 2020, we continue to keep our eyes on the operational effectiveness of our programs, while maintaining our financial health. IAS continues to invest in education, training, IT infrastructure and staff enhancements to serve our customers more effectively and rapidly to ensure quality in all sectors we operate under.

Please do share with us any interesting and helpful information that we can share with our IAS community. Feel free to drop us a note anytime.

Stay safe,
Raj Nathan

FEATURING:

- » Forensic Labs & Inspection Agencies Accreditation
- » ILAC & IAF Recognitions
- » GORD Labs Expands their Scope to Fight COVID-19
- » IAS' Role in Mars Probe
- » Rocco Davis Appointed to CA Transportation Commission
- » Sam Palmer Appointed to IAS Board
- » Raj Nathan Elected to APAC Executive Committee
- » Building Departments are Talking about Accreditation
- » TAC BDA Meeting
- » TAC Food Safety Meeting
- » Calibration Program Update
- » Identify Fake Certs
- » IAS Special Inspection Agencies Helping to Protect Clark County
- » Assessor Spotlight – Max Porter
- » Upcoming Online Trainings and Webinars
- » Trust but Verify
- » Non-destructive testing – Building code and IAS AC472
- » Utilizing Remote Assessments as a tool
- » World Accreditation Day Video

Forensic Laboratories and Inspection Agencies Accreditation

Forensic Testing and Calibration Laboratory Accreditation

IAS accreditation confirms that the Testing or Calibration Lab complies with the ISO/IEC Standard 17025.

IAS accredited forensic testing or calibration laboratories demonstrate to the marketplace and to regulators that accreditation requirements are met and are periodically monitored for compliance. The accreditation process involves an assessment of the forensic laboratories technical competence for performing sampling, testing and/or calibration services. Forensic analysis service providers will have a standardized, efficient system devoted to quality of testing performance with increased accountability.

2020 Forensic Lab Accreditation Policy

The United States Department of Justice mandated department-run forensic labs to obtain and maintain accreditation and all department prosecutors to use accredited labs to process forensic evidence when practicable as of December 2020.

Accreditation assesses a forensic lab's capacity to generate and interpret results in a particular forensic discipline and helps to ensure an ongoing compliance to industry and applicable international standards.

IAS will assess and monitor the quality of the lab's management system by examining factors that include staff competence; method validation; appropriateness of test methods; calibration and maintenance of test equipment; testing environment and quality assurance data.

Forensic Inspection Agency Accreditation

IAS accreditation confirms that the Inspection Agency complies with the ISO/IEC Standard 17020.

IAS assesses forensic inspection agencies' competence for performing inspections and the consistency of their inspection activities. IAS accredits agencies that perform inspections of materials, products, installations or processes.

Forensic Analysis Categories

IAS provides accreditation to the following forensic analysis related categories:

- Law enforcement agencies and crime laboratories
- Medical examiner offices and public health agencies
- Environmental testing laboratories and breath alcohol calibration laboratories
- Animal drug testing laboratories
- Computer/IT forensic investigation organizations
- Academic institutions

ILAC and IAF Recognitions

IAS participation in **ILAC** and **IAF** technical meetings is of strategic importance and value because IAS operates a diverse range of accreditation programs (testing, calibration, inspection, management systems, product, persons) within the established ILAC and IAF Multilateral and Mutual Recognition Arrangements (commonly known as MRAs/MLAs). IAS was recently recognized under the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for the scopes of ISO 45001 (OH&SMS) and IPC-PL-11-006 on March and May 2020 respectively (shown in italics below). These new recognitions add to the already approved scopes of IAS under the IAF MLA (full recognition below).

A valuable consequence of this scope extension expands IAS' reach and stature as a full-service accreditation body serving the interests of its constituents worldwide. The recognitions received under IAF and ILAC allows international acceptance of IAS accreditations based on the equivalence of other accreditation body's accreditation programs through the establishment of regional MLAs/MRAs. Hence, providing world-wide recognition and acceptance of IAS test reports, certificates and those certificates issued by our accredited conformity assessment bodies. The certified clients of accredited conformity assessment bodies help facilitate trade and commerce amongst economies within regional groups which in turn serve global markets.

The full [approved IAF and ILAC MLA/MRA scope](#) as of May 2020 is shown below:

Main scopes

- Product Certification - ISO/IEC 17065 - 26 May 2011
- Management Systems Certification - ISO/IEC 17021-1
- Certification of Persons - ISO/IEC 17024 - 26 Oct 2018

Sub scopes

Level 4

Product: GlobalG.A.P. IFA General Regulations - 20 Mar 2019

- MS: ISO/TS 22003
- MS: ISO/IEC 17021-3
- MS: ISO/IEC 17021-2
- MS: ISO/IEC 27006
- MS: ISO 50003
- MS: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10

Level 5

Product: GlobalG.A.P. IFA CPCCs

- MS: ISO 22000 (FSMS)
- MS: ISO 9001 (QMS)
- MS: ISO 14001 (EMS)
- MS: ISO/IEC 27001 (ISMS)
- MS: ISO 13485 (MDMS)
- MS: ISO 50001 (EnMS)
- MS: ISO 45001 (OH&SMS)
- Persons: IPC-PL-11-006



ILAC MRA Signatory
Testing, Calibration, Inspection



IAF MLA Signatory for Certification of Persons (plus IPC Management System Auditors), Product Certification (plus Global G.A.P.) and Management System Certification (QMS, EMS, OH&SMS, ISMS, EnMS, FSMS, MDQMS)

GORD Labs Expands their Scope of Accredited Testing to help Fight the Spread of COVID-19

Gord Labs, an IAS accredited testing laboratory in Doha Qatar reached out to our technical staff on May 1, 2020 to expand their scope of accredited testing to include hand sanitizer. The assessment was completed May 9, and their updated certificate issued May 10th. Founding Chairman Dr. Yousef Alhorr had this to say about the experience:



"Dear IAS Management Team,

On behalf of the EcoLab-GORD team I would like to extend our appreciation and words of thanks to yourselves and your staff for the excellent support and extraordinary efforts dedicated by IAS to facilitate the expansion of the testing scopes of our laboratory ISO/IEC certification in a very short time and at a very challenging situation given the immense pressures caused by the widespread of the pandemic COVID-19.

We truly appreciate the business relations with your organization and look forward to a continued collaboration for the benefits of both parties."

Details of the expanded scope are shown in the charts below:

Hand Sanitizer	Ethanol	Qualitative & Quantitative analysis of alcohols content in Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers obtained according to WHO guidelines	1 % to 100%
	Isopropanol		1 % to 100%

Chemical	
SOP/OPN/14 based on ASTM E 168 and Perkin Elmer application note using FTIR	Quantification of Ethanol and Isopropanol in Alcohol-Based hand sanitizers

IAS' Role in the Mars Hope Probe



Congratulations to the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, an IAS accredited testing laboratory, for launching the Emirates Mars Mission and Mars Hope Probe. The event marks the first step in the mission's 7-month-long journey to gather key science data about Mars' atmosphere.

Rocco Davis Appointed to California Transportation Commission



Jon Rocco Davis, Chairperson of the IAS Board of Directors, has been appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to the California Transportation Commission. The 13-member California Transportation Commission (CTC) is responsible for programming and allocating funds for the construction of highway, passenger rail, transit and active transportation improvements throughout California. The Commission also advises and assists the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency and the Legislature in formulating and evaluating state policies and plans for California's transportation programs.

Since 2001, Davis has been vice president and regional manager of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA). He also chairs the LIUNA Pacific Southwest Regional Organizing Coalition, National Alliance for Fair Contracting, Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust Southwest and International Accreditation Service. Davis is a trustee of the National Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust Board, the LIUNA Staff and Affiliates Pension Fund, Laborers' National Industrial Pension Fund, Laborers' National Health and Welfare Fund, Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America, LIUNA Training and Education Fund, the Service Contract Education and Training Trust and the Laborers-Employers Benefit Plan Collection Trust.

Sam Palmer of Clark County Appointed to IAS Board



Sam Palmer, P.E., CBO, has served as chairman of the IAS Accreditation Committee for three years. He is a past president of the Southern Nevada International Code Council chapter, where he also served as chairman of the 2019 ICC Las Vegas Annual Business Meeting planning committee. Palmer is currently the chairman of the Nevada Organization of Building Officials. He

was also chairman of the State of Nevada Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Palmer has been the assistant director for the Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention in Las Vegas, Nev., since 2013. He was previously the Western Operating Group manager for Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Palmer brings more than 35 years of industry-related knowledge to his new role as a member of the IAS Board of Directors. IAS is pleased that Palmer has accepted this appointment as he will represent the company well and will contribute much to the new role. IAS is a subsidiary of the International Code Council and part of the Code Council's family of solutions.



8 Programs to Help Building Departments Approve:

1. Special Inspection Agencies
2. Fabricators
3. Metal Building Manufacturers
4. Metal Building Assemblers
5. Testing Laboratories
6. Field Evaluation Bodies
7. Building Department Service Providers
8. Product Certification Agencies



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20-19252



Raj Nathan Elected to APAC Executive Committee



Raj Nathan, President of the International Accreditation Service (IAS) has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC). The Executive Committee functions as a board of directors and is responsible for the effective pursuit of APAC objectives, and for the oversight of the operations and management of APAC. APAC is the regional association of accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) was established on January 1, 2019 by the amalgamation of two former regional accreditation cooperation's – the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC).

Raj has been president of IAS since 2018. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President, and in other positions, for IAS where he gained over 20 years of progressive technical and management experience in conformity assessment and accreditation areas. He led the successful expansion of IAS' business operations globally. He has served and led international teams to Japan, India, Singapore, etc. on a variety of global assignments in peer evaluation of the national accreditation systems. Raj holds a Master of Science in Industrial and Management Systems Engineering from University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

APAC's primary role is to manage and expand a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) among accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region to facilitate trade. The MRA facilitates the acceptance of test reports, inspection reports and management systems across the region and with other regions around the world. The region represents over half of world trade and two-thirds of global human population.

This APAC mutual recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment reduces the need to undertake duplicate testing, inspection or certification, thus saving time and money, increasing economic efficiency and facilitating international trade. APAC has:

47 Full Members across 29 economies that are APAC MRA signatories; 18 Associate Members across 15 economies; and 8 Affiliates across 8 economies.

APAC's [members](#) include accreditation bodies, accreditation focal points and other organizations that have an interest in accredited conformity assessment results.

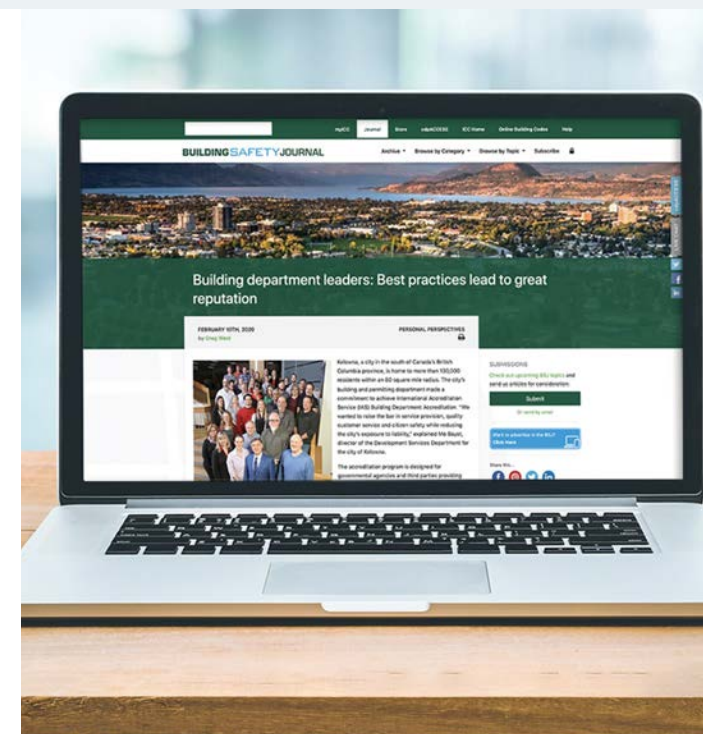
APAC is recognized by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as one of four [APEC Specialist Regional Bodies](#) (SRBs) that support the work of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance.

Building Departments are Talking about Accreditation

If you have ever wondered why building departments are getting accredited by IAS, then you will be interested in a [series](#) of articles that ran in the International Code Council's Building Safety Journal. IAS developed the series of articles about building departments that have been accredited in the Building Department Accreditation Program. The articles feature interviews with building officials from twelve accredited departments. The building officials answer questions about why they decided to pursue accreditation, the challenges of going through the process and how accreditation has helped their departments.

IAS accreditation demonstrates that building departments have met the national standard and are competent to provide public safety services for their communities. The accreditation is based on IAS Accreditation Criteria for Building Code Regulatory Agencies and Third-Party Service Providers (AC251). Getting accredited involves an assessment of the department's goals, policies, and procedures, as well as permitting, inspections and plan reviews.

To read the articles, [click here](#).



TAC Building Department Accreditation Meeting

The Technical Advisory Council-Building Department Accreditation (TAC BDA) met via teleconference on August 6, 2020. Chairperson Selso Mata, Building Official for the City of Plano, TX, opened the meeting. He welcomed the members of the council. IAS President Raj Nathan updated the council on the current business status and programs. The TAC BDA discussed revisions to the accreditation program and criteria. Mike Bouse, IAS BDA program manager updated the council on administrative and program status pertaining to the Building Department Accreditation Program.

TAC Food Safety Meeting



IAS held a Food Safety Technical Advisory Council (TAC) meeting, Wednesday, June 24th, to discuss and identify issues pertaining to food safety in testing, inspection, product and personnel certification, and management systems certification entities. The Food TAC is chaired by Mr. Udo Lampe (Analytica Alimentaria GmbH) and supported by representatives from government laboratories, accredited organizations, and IAS staff.

The meeting included discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges in accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, blockchain and food safety, food sampling, the proposed Rule for FDA Testing Laboratories, IAS food accreditation programs updates, and the latest IAF Food Working Group meeting outputs.

The IAS Accreditation program expansions to new areas such as Accreditation of Halal Certification Bodies or BRC were also highlighted during the meeting. Innovative techniques alternative to traditional Quality Assurance Programs (PT-ILC) for Testing Laboratories, such as the use of undercover samples, were introduced to attendees. Decisions were made on the development of various technical papers and presentations (e.g. for food sampling and associated risks and challenges) and participation in future events. Special attention was given to the traction that the 2020 World Accreditation Day event that IAS hosted on June 9th received, since the theme was related to Accreditation and Food Safety. IAS Top Management Commitment to promote food safety through the IAS Accreditation Programs and participation in major events, was verified through the closing remarks by IAS President, Mr. Raj Nathan.

For more information about the IAS Food Technical Advisory Council, email Mr. Dimitrios Katsieris, IAS Food Safety TAC Secretary, dimitriosk@iasonline.org


Read the [full summary](#) of the previous TAC meeting here.

Calibration Program Update

Helga Alexander recently made multiple presentations on the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard's new decision rule requirements for accredited laboratories. She gave her first presentation on this topic at the 2020 Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) Virtual Meeting in June. This was followed by a more detailed 2-part webinar, delivered through the NCSL International Metrology in Motion Webinar Series, drawing participants from all over the world. The new standard's decision rule requirements ensure that laboratories take measurement uncertainties into account when making a conformity statement in a test or calibration report and consider the risk of a potential "Pass" decision, when the true result was actually a "Fail." Owing to the fact that different decision rules carry different levels of risk of a potentially incorrect decision, the new standard requires that the laboratory's customers agree to the decision rule adopted by the laboratory before work begins.



Identify Fake Certificates



Fake Certificates from certification bodies or testing laboratories may result in ineffective or even dangerous products. This why it is important to know how to tell the difference between fake and authentic certificates. Learn 10 tips to identify fake certificates in this entertaining video produced by IAF and ILAC. IAS is a signatory member of these organizations and is pleased to provide this video as an education resource. View the [video](#)






Accreditation

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Trust, Competence, Safety

20-10253



IAS Accredited Special Inspection Agencies Helping to Protect Clark County, Nevada

Clark County, Nev., is home of the world-famous Las Vegas Strip. Clark is the nation's 13th-largest county in the U.S. and provides extensive regional services to more than 2.3 million citizens and more than 45.6 million visitors a year. The Clark County Building Department relies on International Accreditation Service (IAS) accredited special inspection agencies to help ensure a high level of building safety for everyone that visits, lives and works in the county. "The Clark County process for approving special inspections is a very robust program. We want to make sure the agencies going out in the field to represent us are qualified. They are an extension of us," said Sam Palmer, assistant director, Department of Building and Fire Prevention, Clark County.

Clark County uses an amended version of the International Building Code (IBC), published by the International Code Council, to ensure the construction of safe buildings. Special inspection is defined in the IBC as "the inspection of construction requiring the expertise of an approved special inspector in order to ensure compliance with the code and the approved construction documents."

Chapter 17 of the IBC includes 16 major categories of mandatory special inspections that have critical life-safety and structural-safety roles, including:

- Inspection of fabricators
- Concrete construction
- Masonry construction
- Steel construction
- Wood construction
- Soils
- Pile foundations
- Smoke control
- Vertical masonry elements
- Wind requirements
- Pier foundations
- Sprayed fire-resistant materials
- Mastic and intumescent fire-resistant coatings
- Exterior insulation and finish systems
- Special cases
- Seismic requirements

The IAS Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program was developed to help building departments implement the special inspection requirements mandated in Chapter 17 of the IBC. "When we talk about special inspections, IAS almost mirrors the steps in the IBC Chapter 17," said Palmer. "The program itself follows all of the main items that we need that show how the firm operates, who are the main players, what are their qualifications, what are their certifications, etc. IAS follows each step all the way down in a very precise and qualified format. That's one of the main reasons we like the IAS program."

Special inspectors are hired by the owner, engineer or architect of record, and not the contractor. While special inspectors are

not employed by the building department, the building official is responsible to approve special inspector qualifications and verify that mandatory special inspections are being performed.

Chapter 17 of the IBC provides specific requirements for approving agencies performing special inspections. The special inspection agency must be independent of the contractor responsible for the work being inspected. The agency shall have adequate equipment to perform required tests and the equipment shall be periodically calibrated. The agency shall employ experienced personnel educated in conducting, supervising and evaluating tests and special inspections. The IBC includes additional requirements related to inspection reports, labeling, follow-up inspections, etc.

Building departments are often understaffed with many duties, both technical and administrative, making it difficult if not impossible to manage a special inspection program. The lack of staff and the absence of an administrative framework to enforce special inspection compliance are big obstacles. IAS developed the Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program to help building departments overcome these obstacles. "The IBC basically requires you to have special inspections," said Palmer. "The IAS special inspection program helps you as a building department to manage the process and ensure the projects being built in your community are built safe and sound."

The IAS Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program is a trusted method being used by building departments to document the qualifications of special inspection agencies and the special inspectors that serve their jurisdiction. IAS also provides accreditation for special inspection agencies recognizing the requirements of various local jurisdictions as adopted in the New York City Building Code, Philadelphia Building Code, Southern Nevada Building Code and others. IAS assesses special inspection agencies based on the requirements in IBC Chapter 17 as adopted by the states and other large jurisdictions. Getting accredited involves an assessment of the agency's inspection procedures, the competence of its inspection staff, and its reporting procedures.

Every accredited agency is given an Accreditation Certificate and Scope document that lists the specific inspections the agency to accredited to conduct. These documents, placed on the IAS website, serve as the basis for approvals from the building department.

For more information about the IAS Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program, review the [IAS Special Inspection Agency brochure](#).



Assessor Spotlight – Dr. Max Porter, P.E.



Dr. Max Porter has worked as an IAS assessor for the past seven years. He earned his BS in Civil Engineering in 1965 and an MS and PhD in Structural Engineering from Iowa State University (ISU) in 1968 and 1974, respectfully. In 1966, he became an Instructor at ISU, later earning the title of Assistant Professor in 1974, Associate Professor in 1977, Professor in 1981, and the distinction of University Professor in 2010 until his retirement in 2012. He now holds the title of University Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Porter, a nationally and internationally recognized structural expert, building standards developer and experienced disaster investigator brings his expertise to his role as an IAS assessor for Inspection Agencies, Special Inspection Agencies, Product Certification Agencies, and Testing Laboratories.

Dr. Porter serves his community and is actively involved in several professional associations. Some positions that he currently holds include chair of the King-Am Neighborhood Association in Ames, IA (a position he has held for nearly 25 years) and chair of the Fiber Composite and Polymer Standards Committee (FCAPS) of ASCE. He has chaired several standards committees, including the Steel Deck with Concrete of ASCE, the Masonry Joint Standards (MSJC) for TMS, ACI, and ASCE and the Administrative Committee of the Codes and Standards (CSC) of ASCE. Besides chairing these

standards committees, he has served on several other standards and building code committees and is still active on several of them. He is also a distinguished member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a member of the Committee on Ethical Practices of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Committees of Fiber Reinforcement for Concrete Structures and of Fiber Reinforced Concrete of the American Concrete Institute. He is also a fellow of the American Concrete Institute, the Masonry Society, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has served as President of the Structural Engineering Institute and President of The Masonry Society. He has served in multiple terms on his church Board of Trustees, including President and is currently the Vice President.

When he isn't doing assessments for IAS, or participating in committee or community work, Dr. Porter enjoys playing and following sports (his favorites are football, basketball, and racquetball), collecting model trains, and adding to his stamp and coin collections. His consulting, investigation, and inspection work has taken him to different locations in the US, however Ames, Iowa has been his home base since 1961 where he currently lives with this wife (also an ISU graduate and employee) of 51 years. Here's what he had to say about doing IAS assessments.

Q: What is your favorite part of doing assessments?

A: The rewarding feeling of being able to help improve a laboratory or facility or process during the assessment. I try to aid in the process to make improvements as well as making an evaluation at a facility.

Q: What is the most challenging part of doing assessments?

A: When there is a loss of the signal or internet during a remote assessment. Another challenge is to squeeze in all the items to review within the limited time frame.

Q: How did you start doing assessments for IAS?

A: I was recruited by a long-time acquaintance on one of the mutual code committees who worked for the ICC-ES system who told me when I decided to give up teaching, I would be eligible to be considered as an assessor for IAS. He asked me if he could submit my name, and after passing multiple courses and exams in the IAS system, I was "sucked in".

Q: What did you enjoy most about being a professor?

A: The most rewarding experiences were my opportunities to pursue research in areas related to building codes; namely, structural engineering, composite structures, FRP, composite steel deck floor slabs, reinforced concrete, structural steel, masonry structures, and disaster investigations. My most fond memories were the awards received from these activities and the outstanding people that I've had the privilege to work with on the national code committees, leading to fruitful contributions to the building codes resulting from my research.

Q: What skills did you take from your time as professor to becoming an IAS assessor?

A: The experiences from being a president of 7 organizations from speaking at numerous conventions, national meetings, and being an invited speaker of special meetings, including, e.g. ethics presentations based upon my work on the national ethics committees, and the opportunities to work with a lot of great people in the various professional organizations.

Q: In your opinion, what is the best value of becoming accredited?

A: The international reputation and recognition of a facility to carry out a testing or other procedure according to prescribed recognized criteria, such as those standards developed via the consensus process.

Upcoming Online Trainings and Webinars

Webinars

Listen to industry experts, ask questions, and learn during these live IAS webinar training sessions. Check out the schedules and course descriptions below.



ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 for Testing and Calibration Labs

Learn about the updated ISO/IEC 17025 standard and its structural components, traceability of measurement, and estimations of uncertainty.

September 30-October 1 - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Management Systems

Better understand the ISO/IEC 17021 standard and its critical requirements. Learn details about the accreditation process and cost-effective implementation recommendations.

October 7-9 - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Product Certification Agencies

Introduction and refresher course to ISO/IEC 17065 standard, Management System requirements, IAS assessment process, Auditing techniques.

October 13-14 - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Inspection Agencies

Introduction and refresher course to ISO/IEC 17020 standard, Management System requirements, IAS assessment process, Auditing techniques.

October 21-22 - [Learn more](#)

Online Training

Learn about the key ISO/IEC standards using IAS online courses when it is convenient for your schedule. Get the details for each course and download the syllabus. Start and stop the training when necessary. These courses provide in-depth training and range from 3 to 10 hours to complete. Check out the sample online training pages.

AC 473 Requirements for Accreditation of Cold Formed Steel Component Inspection - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17025 Revision to 2017 version - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies - [Learn more](#)

ISO/IEC 17065 for certification bodies - [Learn more](#)

International Accreditation Service (IAS) and California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) Program

CSUDH and IAS have developed a 4-Module Certificate for IAS clients, ICC membership, Assessors, and Subject Matter Experts involved in conformity assessment. The program is for University students/alumni, STEM and technical professionals with practical experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Quality management
- Membership in standards development organizations
- Accreditation authorities and the staff of testing and measuring laboratories



This course is delivered via a cohort format consisting of four modules instructed by recognized subject matter experts in their areas of standardization and conformity. Class meetings will take place via Zoom on four Saturdays and one additional all-day symposium. Delegates must attend all sessions and pass an examination with a score of 70% or better on the final Saturday to receive this certificate.

Class Topics and Meeting Days

Module 1 - Conformity Assessment Principles /Management System | Oct. 3

Module 2 - Systems of Accreditation /Systems of Certification | Oct. 10

Module 3 - The World of Standardization /Global Issues in Conformity Assessment | Oct. 17

Module 4 - Risk Analysis in Conformity Assessment /Metrology in Conformity Assessment | Oct. 24

Exam/Project Presentation | Nov. 7

Program Cost

The total price for Accreditation, Standardization and Conformity Assessment is \$599. Registration must be completed by September 30, 2020. Discounts are available for groups of 3 or more.

To Register for this course, call 310-243-3741 (Option 1)

For more information, visit the [CSUDH website](#) or email [Michael Casner](#)

California ELAP Training

The following IAS training sessions presented by Dr. Tony Francis have been made available for your viewing.

Webinar 1: CA ELAP/2016 TNI Standard for Testing Laboratories Training [Video](#). (90-minutes)

Webinar 2: Get ready for the new California ELAP Accreditation Requirements Training [Video](#). (60-minutes)

Webinar 3: How to prepare your Laboratory for an ELAP Assessment [Video](#). (90-minutes)

Webinar 4: The Importance of QC in an ELAP Laboratory [Video](#). (100-minutes)



Trust but Verify



In the conformity assessment industry, specifically for management systems certification, the certification decision review is the one time any other certification body personnel, besides the auditor, can make a technical determination regarding effectiveness of a management system. That being the case, the certification decision is the last firewall protecting certification bodies from malpractice, ambiguity and liability when it comes to their certified customers.

The Devil is in the Details

One of the most commonly overlooked requirements related to the certification decision section within the ISO/IEC 17021-1 standard is clause 9.5.1.4 (ISO Staff, 2016):

“The certification body shall record each certification decision including any additional information or clarification sought from the audit team or other sources”

Sure, certification bodies almost always record the certification decision, this is a no-brainer; but what about the second part of the clause?

From personal experience conducting technical reviews of reports, I have observed that in a high percentage of cases, clarification is needed from the team (or other sources) regarding a statement or observation made during the audit/assessment. Let's face it, humans aren't always the best communicators which can lead to different interpretations of what a sentence really means within a conversation, not to mention an audit/assessment report. When this issue comes up, it is up to the certification decision reviewer to clarify with the auditors (or other sources) and determine what was meant by what has been written. Assuming you, the reader, work in a certification body, how many times have you seen such clarification requested? How many times have you seen it recorded?

The 40th president of the USA, Mr. Ronald Reagan, was known for his signature phrase, (adopted from a Russian proverb; “Doverýáy, no proveryáy”) “Trust but verify”; this is the attitude that persons charged with certification decision review should adopt (Porzucki, 2014). You are trusting the competence of your auditors but verifying the details and results of the audit. You are trusting that the statements included in the report are factual but verifying that your understanding is correct. You are trusting your system but verifying its effectiveness.

Another great way to relate this concept is by considering the **Plan, Do, Check, Act** concept. A certification body (and/or its auditors) **plan** an audit, the auditors conduct (**do**) the audit, the certification decision reviewer(s) **check** the audit, and the corrective action process is used if any action is necessary. I challenge readers to present a situation in which the details included in an audit report are clear beyond a shadow of a doubt. The reality is, with all forms of communication, a certain level of uncertainty is expected. Ever played a game of telephone? Our mandate, as conformity assessment professionals, especially as certification decision reviewers, is to find these points of ambiguity and clear them up before we assume the liability and responsibility for an organization's system certification.

Additionally, your auditors will thank you for conducting a thorough review of the statements made in assessment/audit reports. Not only do you protect the interests of the certification body with a detailed review, but you can also provide your auditors with input regarding continuous improvement and professional development. Not to mention in-part fulfilling the requirements in clause 7.2.10 of the standard. This is not to say that certification decision reviewers should be hunting through each line of the audit report looking for typos or misspellings; not only is this an impractical waste of time, but you also run the risk of alienating subject matter expert auditors just because their typing skills aren't word perfect. However, responsible reviewers should certainly take the time to read into the details of the report and ask themselves, from a third-party perspective, ‘what does this really mean’?

From a Certain Point of View

Another reason that an in-depth technical review should be conducted, and the clarifications sought resulting from that technical review be recorded is that different viewpoints notice different aspects. If we all read something and walked away with the exact same understanding, not only would this article be pointless, but philosophy wouldn't be taught in institutions worldwide. Why? Philosophy is the study of viewpoints. Different individuals have different experiences which leads them to develop distinct points of view. Something that is extremely clear for one person, may invoke hundreds of questions in another. The same goes for auditors. One auditor may observe a process or situation and come up with one determination of its effectiveness or conformity; while another auditor observing the same process or situation would have entirely different conclusions. The role of the technical reviewer is to ensure that the viewpoints expressed in an assessment/audit report are understandable and unambiguous to the greatest number of people.

Why Does it all Matter?

Not only does an in-depth technical review process increase your own confidence in your certification process, it also gives third party assessors/auditors confidence in the overall system. From a customer relations perspective, detailed technical reviews can also serve to calibrate auditors, resulting in greater customer satisfaction and a reduction in hearing “the previous auditor said this, while this auditor said the opposite”. This not only reduces the prevalence of appeals, complaints, and general dissent from your customers, but empowers them to know that someone from the home office of their certification body is paying attention and won't stand for auditors auditing their personal interpretation of compliance to a requirement, but the compliance to the requirement itself.

In depth technical reviews, recording the results of those technical reviews, and acting upon the information gleaned from the reviews is one of the most effective ways to improve your certification process and can have far-flung positive effects on the other parts of your management system.

Patrick McCullen
Senior Accreditation Officer, IAS

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Non-destructive testing – Building code requirements and IAS AC472 accreditation



Dr. Lee Shoemaker, P.E., is the director of research and engineering for the Metal Building Manufacturers Association.



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by Lee Shoemaker, Sandi McCracken

To help determine non-destructive testing requirements of the applicable building code and to establish minimum practices and procedures for maintaining AC472 accreditation, the International Accreditation Service (IAS) and the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) provide the following information and answers to frequently asked questions. Readers are encouraged to review reference sections cited in the codes/standards to verify that the summary provided herein is applicable to a specific situation.

Introduction

The applicable building code edition referenced in the contract documents determines the required edition of the referenced material design specifications, [American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) 360, AISC 341 etc.]. For the purposes of this paper, discussion focuses on the requirements in the most recent and widely adopted model building code – the 2018 International Building Code (IBC), and therefore AISC 360-16 and AISC 341-16.

The best way to control weld quality is by controlling the process, not by performing NDT after the fact. Even so, inspections related to quality control (QC) are routinely carried out by the metal building manufacturer that include visual examinations of welds and may also include nondestructive testing (NDT) of

welds. Inspections related to quality assurance (QA) are traditionally carried out by others (third party inspection) and these QA inspections are referred to as “special inspections” in the building code. However, as discussed below, a metal building manufacturer may not only be exempt from specific special inspections required by the IBC, but also may be able to carry out special inspections and NDT using their own certified personnel.

[Read the full article](#)

Utilizing Remote Assessments as a tool in the Accreditation Process



By Dr. George Anastasopoulos
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A. Introduction

Organizations around the world have pivoted to remote work amid the COVID-19 pandemic. And to a remarkable extent, many of them have been able to successfully carry out much of their business operations. Among those organizations are accreditation bodies that have chosen to replace a significant part of their onsite assessments by remote assessments. IAS had already implemented such practices in extraordinary circumstances for more than 5 years, accumulating significant experience. Still it was only the last few months, during the COVID-19 pandemic, that IAS systematically utilized remote management system assessments as a standard practice for a considerable number of carefully selected assessments, based on the complexity of the scope of accreditation.

A remote management system assessment is when electronic means are used to collect assessment evidence by utilizing electronic communication tools. A remote assessment means assessing from a remote location. According to IAF ID 12:2015, remote assessment is defined as "...the facilitation of assessment of a Conformity Assessment Body from a location other than that being physically present".

The methods used to converse from a remote location may include one or a combination of technologies such as telephone communication, videoconferencing, e-mailing, online chat rooms etc. The new ISO 19011:2018 "Guidelines for auditing management systems" has already incorporated language to address remote management system audits.

The obvious benefit of remote assessments is more efficient use of resources. Remote assessment techniques can save assessor travel time and expenses. It will also facilitate situations where a site is

not easily accessible, or when there is an urgent need for assessment, and in extraordinary situations such as medical emergencies-quarantines, pandemics, etc. On the other hand, onsite assessments need more time for preparation and implementation and in many cases, they don't provide the same flexibility as the remote assessments.

B. Collecting data, information

It is IAS primary concern that when performing remote management system assessments, it is ensured that whatever means are used, the credibility of the assessment results is maintained. The outcomes/deliverables of the remote assessment are expected to be the same as the ones collected by an assessment in which on-site or direct means are used to identify evidence. The same agenda assessment report and checklist documents are also completed by IAS assessors and are submitted to IAS for review.

During the remote assessment appropriate data is collected to verify conformity to the assessment criteria. The data must be enough to verify conformity, free of bias and representative of the current status of the area/activity being assessed.

During remote assessments and in order to achieve assessment efficiency by recording and analyzing information provided electronically the client is required to provide more information in advance of the assessment. In that case the client is required to complete checklists and submit specific records, before the assessment, reporting on the controls in place or recent changes in their system or process.

Three elements of an assessment are affected when the assessment is performed remotely:

1. Interviewing

This can be conducted remotely using teleconference technology. In preparation for the remote interview, the lead assessor must communicate with the interviewees in order to agree on the arrangements, including software to be utilized, dates, time etc. Time difference is always considered. When the assessor is planning to perform

the interview from home then additional arrangements are expected to avoid possible distractions.

The assessor needs to check in advance to ensure that both the client and the assessor have access to compatible operational instrumentation, software/apps, microphones, speakers, video camera etc.

Assessors also need to submit a specially developed questionnaire for the client to answer prior to the interview. Based on the answers to the pre-interview questions, the assessor prepares the actual interview questions and they are determining the tools needed to collect assessment evidence.

Remote assessing issues to be taken under consideration by the assessment team members include the following:

- Preparation needs to ensure that interviews are punctual.
- The room to be used for the interview is suitable.
- Become familiar with the communication equipment/software/app.
- Beware of weak or unstable internet connection. (Assessor and client should be prepared to use telephone if internet connection is not stable).
- Considerations regarding usage of cameras and video equipment that could be banned due to security issues. (Assessor must be sure beforehand that the client will agree to use video image capturing technologies).

2. Reviewing and verifying documents and records

This process can be performed off site if the assessor has access to any kind of electronic document control system. Records can be forwarded to the assessor, as requested, using different methods such as mail, skype, WebEx etc. The electronic document control system/app to be used must be agreed with the client before conducting the remote assessment.

The assessor will need to be prepared and able to select records to be verified during the interview, such as test reports,

inspection reports or calibration reports, certificates, personnel files etc. In this way, off-site verification of documents and records could be as effective as on-site assessment and could save assessing time.

The potential issues to be considered and resolved before the remote assessment are the need for scanning equipment for paper copies, if any, gaining remote access to the documents used by the client, and the time it takes to be trained on accessing and navigating the document control software/app.

3. Witnessing

Remote assessment practices for actual witnessing (of a process such as a test, or inspection, or audit) can be used to collect data online. Collecting data remotely is more demanding when performed remotely in real time. It is possible to use a digital camera to observe the process and review related evidence. Surveillance cameras could be used, but they should be avoided because their quality or functionality could be inadequate.

Each situation should be evaluated based on data access and importance of the process or assessment risk. For some remote assessments, data collection may need to be skipped or verified during a later on-site assessment.

For remote assessments, observing specific processes may not be important for certain areas. For example, setting up cameras to watch the human resources or purchasing department at work is not going to yield better information than asking the auditee directly for the required data. But watching the lab's specimen conditioning area or observing the testing area surroundings could be important because there may be physical signs effecting testing implementation. Similarly, when process implementation, ongoing process controls, or process outputs need to be observed, appropriate real-time video surveillance may be needed.

C. Remote assessment considerations

The following questions should be answered when preparing a remote assessment:

- **Assessment scope and objectives or purpose**
Can the remote assessment be performed during an initial accreditation, a surveillance, a reassessment and/or scope expansion?

IAS assessors are expected to consult the respective program manager for instructions per case.

- **Nature of the processes to be assessed**
Does the process to be assessed involve oral communication or documentation, retrieval of records and document control?

IAS assessors are trained on how to understand the client processes before conducting the remote assessment (using checklists, client's Quality Manual and/or other MS documentation).

- **Type of instrumentation, equipment and materials involved in the process to be assessed**
Which parts of the (testing/calibration/inspection etc.) process should be demonstrated?

IAS assessors are expected to define which parts of the operation, that need to be observed, are critical for verification of conformity.

- **Number of client facility areas that the assessor wishes to observe**
Which areas should be covered?

The IAS lead assessor is expected to define and agree with the client, in advance, the areas to observe.

- **Scheduling**
What is the preferable time to schedule the remote assessment?

The IAS lead assessor is expected to acknowledge and manage time zone issues and try to coordinate reasonable and mutually agreeable convening times.

- **Time management**
How long will the remote assessment take?

IAS has performed a series of pilot remote assessments in the past. It was found that additional time is required to perform a remote assessment at the same level of quality as a regular assessment. Therefore, it is recommended to schedule for additional time and be prepared well, before the on-site assessment, addressing the issues noted above.

- **Communication tools**
Will the communication tools be adequate?

The IAS lead assessor considers the availability of appropriate electronic communication equipment, as well as

the capability of the IAS team assessors and client to operate electronic communication equipment and address any applicable security requirements.

A trial meeting with the client using the agreed upon media platforms could be conducted to ensure that the scheduled assessment will perform as planned.

Conclusion

A remote assessment, for accreditation purposes, can be considered in many cases (depending on the applicable accreditation standard and the scope of accreditation) as an acceptable alternate to on-site assessments during extraordinary circumstances such as a pandemic. Accreditation bodies around the world have implemented such assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic, carrying out, successfully, much of their accreditation operations. During that period IAS had also replaced a significant part of its onsite assessments of selected clients' management systems with remote assessments. The experience of this process indicates that its success is heavily dependent on the availability of the appropriate instrumentation and software, the careful preparation and the adequate training of involved staff. It is the opinion of IAS personnel involved in this process, that the on-site assessments are, still, a superior auditing tool, for accreditation purposes.

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World Accreditation Day Webinar Video



“How Accreditation Improves Food Safety”



Udo Lampe
Analytica
Alimentaria

Chris Priddy
U.S. FDA

Mustafa Gassem
Saudi FDA

Dimitrios Katsieris
IAS

Watch this [World Accreditation Day video](#) featuring presentations from 4 leading experts in the food safety industry.

Udo Lampe, Founder and Managing Director of [Analytica Alimentaria GmbH](#) presentation is on “Accreditation and Food Safety: A World of Opportunities and Challenges”.

Christopher Priddy, JD, International Relations Specialist, U.S. Embassy New Delhi Food & Drug Administration, presentation topic is “U.S. [Food & Drug Administration](#) Office of Global Policy and Strategy” which is an overview of the India Office Food Safety Efforts.

Dr. Mustafa Gassem, Executive Director, [Integrated Modern Scientific Supplies](#) (IMSS), delivers a presentation on “Food Safety and Accreditation” which discusses the benefits of food safety certification and accreditation.

Dimitrios Katsieris, International Manager, [IAS](#), presents on “Why Accreditation is Important for Food Safety” which highlights the various accreditation food safety programs from IAS.



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 - » Structural Steel
 - » Wood Wall Panels
- Inspection Programs for Manufacturers of Metal Building Systems
- Inspection Programs for Manufacturers of Cold-formed Steel Structural and Nonstructural Components not Requiring Welding
- Inspection Practices for Metal Building Assemblers
- Building Departments
- Building Department Service Providers
- Fire Prevention and Life Safety Departments
- Field Evaluation Bodies
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