

## Excitement is Building for Accreditation

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) has prepared this update to keep you informed about some of the news and events going on with the Metal Building Assemblers Inspection Accreditation (AC478).



## AC478 Congratulatory Letters to Building Departments

Building departments can make a huge impact on the timeline and cost of a construction project. That's why it is so important that building departments are confident in the competence of the construction company. To this end, IAS will be sending a letter to building departments in jurisdictions where there are companies accredited to AC478. The letters will highlight the accredited company and summarize the benefits of the accreditation for the building department, building owners and community. The same letter will be sent to the International Code Council's (ICC) governmental representatives that are working with building departments in the region. The majority of the building departments in the U.S. are members of the ICC and adopt the building codes published and maintained by the ICC. IAS is a subsidiary the ICC and a member of the code council family of solutions.

## AC478 at the Nation's Annual Conference for Building Officials

Building Officials from around the country will be attending the International Code Council's [Annual Conference](#) this year both virtually and in person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 19-28. Historically, this has been the largest gathering of code officials in the nation. As a subsidiary of ICC and member of the Code Councils Family of Solutions, IAS will be featured in promotions throughout the conference to educate attendees about the benefits of the IAS Accreditation programs. IAS AC478 and IAS AC472 advertisements will be shown on screens in the registration area, meeting rooms, and other areas that will get the attention of the building departments staffs attending this nationwide event. This year's conference will feature industry-leading educational sessions, special networking events, inspiring keynote speakers and historic building tours. The conference will also include hearings on the 2024 International Codes. Attending the code hearings is an excellent way to get involved in the code development process. The hearings provide a valuable opportunity to offer your expertise and thoughts on the latest innovations in building and fire safety and their integration into the I-Codes.

## Specification or Accreditation – What comes first?

For ages, the question has been “Which came first? The Chicken or the Egg.” This same question is being asked by companies thinking about getting accredited. “Should I become accredited first, or should I wait for customers to start including specification language that requires accreditation?”

While one company is still trying to answer this question, others are moving ahead with accreditation. They understand accreditation will set the bar for companies assembling metal buildings. When a potential customer asks “Why should I choose your company over the next company, you can give a solid answer with details about what it means to be an IAS Accredited Metal Building Assembler. IAS is an independent, internationally recognized accreditation body that is a leader in the construction industry and a subsidiary of the International Code Council, the organization that develops the building codes. The accreditation process verifies that an assembler has the qualified staff, equipment, processes and training to do the job right. You can even provide them a copy of the IAS Certificate of Accreditation and AC478 accreditation criteria.

In conclusion, the answer to the question should be that the assembler should first become accredited, before the specification language requires accreditation.

## Why should your company get accredited to IAS AC478?

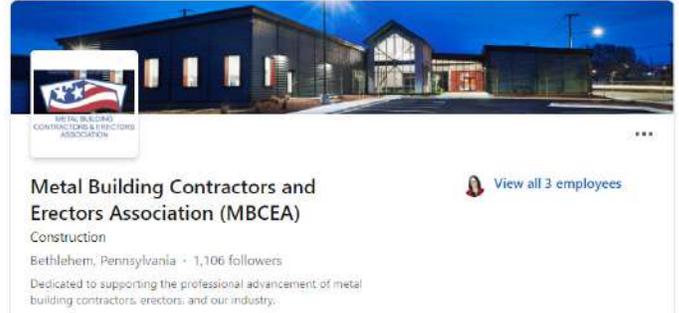
There are many reasons to get accredited to AC478 by IAS. One of the biggest reasons is to give your company an edge over competitors. Every company is trying to differentiate themselves from all the other companies erecting metal buildings. While price is important, you don't want to become known as the lowest bidder when you are offering high quality service and experience. The best way to raise awareness about your service is to highlight your IAS accreditation. IAS is an internationally recognized, independent accreditation body, and a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), publishers of the building codes used throughout the USA. Read about more of the benefits of becoming accredited on the IAS [website](#).



### LinkedIn Group for IAS AC478

If you are on LinkedIn and want to join in on the discussion about IAS AC478 Accreditation, join our Group that is named IAS AC478 Accreditation for Metal Building Assemblers.

The purpose of the group is to introduce the IAS Metal Building Assemblers Inspection Accreditation Program (also known as IAS AC478) and provide an opportunity for discussion between metal building assemblers, specifiers, building owners and regulators about the accreditation program for metal building assemblers. Hope to see you there.



## MBCEA Growing Support for Accreditation

If you are a member of the Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association, then you already know that the organization is a strong supporter of accreditation. In fact, the MBCEA was instrumental in working with IAS and other industry groups like the Metal Building Manufacturers Association to develop the criteria (AC478) that is the basis for accreditation. Now, more than ever, the MBCEA is supporting companies that are pursuing accreditation. For more details about their support, visit <https://www.mbcea.org/ac478>.



## MBMA Accreditation

The Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) serves as the voice of the metal building systems industry, providing leadership, research, and education to increase the prominence and usage of metal building systems. Its members include companies like Behlen Building Systems, Butler Manufacturers, Nucor Buildings, Cornerstone and other great companies. MBMA Building Systems member firms employ more than 12,000 people in 65 manufacturing plants. These firms engage in the design, manufacture and sale of metal building systems.

In 2008, the MBMA made it a requirement for all of the Building Systems members to become accredited under the IAS AC472 program. This program verifies companies are competent to design and fabricated pre-engineered metal building systems. In turn, now many of these MBMA member companies are seeing the benefits of having a company accredited under the IAS AC478 program assemble their designed buildings. It is easy to see how this is a winning formula for companies that design, fabricate and assemble metal building systems. Tom Gilligan, a great contributor and member of the review committee for both programs said it best when writing an article titled "AC472 + AC478 = a Winning Combination."

## ICC Learn Live – A Nationwide Education Event

The International Code Council (ICC) will hold ICC Learn Live, a virtual education event, this November. This event will include a series of educational presentations about the most pressing issues and priorities for building safety professionals, including a presentation from IAS, Monday, November 15, 11 am -12 noon, titled "Approving Engineered Metal Building Systems and Assembly with IAS Accreditations." This program will help building departments to approve the design, fabrication and assembly of metal building systems based on two IAS Accreditation programs (AC472 +AC478) and the International Building Code. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

## Building Officials Benefit from IAS AC472 and IAS AC478-- The Article

Earlier this year, IAS placed an [article](#) titled "Building officials benefit from IAS AC472 and AC478 in low-rise construction" that was published in the ICC's Building Safety Journal, an online magazine that reaches thousands of building departments around the country. IAS has reformatted this article into pdf format and place it on our website for easy download that can be printed, emailed or placed on websites.



OCTOBER 6-8, 2021 IN TAMPA, FLORIDA

# METALCON

THE ONLY GLOBAL EVENT DEDICATED TO THE USE OF METAL IN DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

## MetalCon

If you are attending MetalCon, October 6-8, in Tampa, Florida, be sure to stop by and say "Hello" to IAS. We will be in exhibit booth #1501 in the expo to provide information for attendees about the AC478 and AC472 programs. IAS, MBMA and MBCEA will also be giving a presentation, Metal Building Industry Setting the Bar with AC472 + AC478, the education program, October 6, 3:30 pm- 4:20 pm, featuring Lee Shoemaker, Phd, Director of Research, MBMA, Jennifer Heimburger, Owner, Heimburger Construction, Walter Mershon, P.E. Deputy of Programs, IAS, Sandi McCracken, Director of Construction and Industrial Relations, IAS.

## Accredited Companies

The following companies have been accredited and others are in the process. For more information about becoming an IAS AC478 Accredited Metal Building Assembler, contact IAS or MBCEA today.





## Promote Your Accreditation with the IAS Mark

Companies accredited by IAS can promote their accreditation using the IAS Accreditation Mark. The mark can be displayed on company websites, flyers, business cards, signs, clothing, reports, etc.

This iconic symbol includes a graphic representation of the IAS logo with the words "Accredited Metal Building Assembler AC478." There are two version available for each mark. The first version is a horizontal format displaying the wording to the side of the logo. The second option is a vertical format showing the wording below the mark.



Accredited companies can obtain a copy of the IAS Accreditation Mark by sending an email to [RequestaMark@iasonline.org](mailto:RequestaMark@iasonline.org). Please be sure to include the name of your company, the accreditation program, and accreditation number.

We would love to see how you are using the IAS mark. It might even be included in a future issue of the IAS newsletter. So please send pictures to [RequestaMark@iasonline.org](mailto:RequestaMark@iasonline.org).

## More Information about Accreditation

If your company is not already accredited, now is the time to apply so you can take advantage of the many benefits provided to accredited companies. For more information about becoming an IAS AC478 Accredited Metal Building Assembler, contact IAS today.



Call 562-364-8201

Email [iasinfo@iasonline.org](mailto:iasinfo@iasonline.org)

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