

MEMO

TO: IAS Accreditation Committee

FROM: Raj Nathan, IAS President

DATE: September 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Presentation of Standards Development Organization Accreditation Program, Subject MISC1.

As required by Clause 4.2.2 of the IAS Rules of Procedure – Accreditation Committee and Accreditation Committee Meeting (“Rules”), Standards Development Organization Accreditation Program, (Subject MISC1) was posted on the IAS website on August 18, 2023, for public review and comments. Clause 4.2.3 of the Rules allows interested parties to deliver written comments to IAS within approximately 30 days of such posting. IAS staff is required to inform the committee of all pertinent written communications received by IAS regarding the proposed criteria.

Since the posting of the MISC1 tem, IAS received the following feedback from Interested Parties and Applicants on the proposed Item:

This input was provided by one company during the leadup to the committee meeting. IAS staff has reviewed this comment and intends to make the recommendation during the committee meeting on October 4, 2023.

Should IAS receive further comments between now and the committee hearing, those shall be appropriately forwarded to the committee. As always, interested parties may also participate at the committee meeting, and shall have the opportunity to speak on the proposed criteria.

End



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Matthew R. Senecal
Director Engineering
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Date: September 22, 2023

Dear IAS Accreditation Committee:

Founded in 1904, ACI develops consensus-based documents, many of which are codes and specifications. Shortly after its founding, ACI, along with other standard developing organizations (SDO) such as ASTM, ASME, and ASCE, established a process for developing standards. ANSI was established in 1918 and adopted similar standardization procedures to provide a framework for standards development.

Being that ACI's standards development process met the same consensus requirements established by the original SDOs, ACI did not need ANSI accreditation until the 1970s when the Nuclear Regulatory Commission required standards, they adopted, be created by accredited SDOs. Since then, ANSI is the only organization accrediting SDOs. ANSI has established a set of core rules that SDOs should follow in the *Essential Requirements*. ACI's consensus process meets those requirements as they are the rules that both ACI and ANSI used to start their organizations. ACI has been an ANSI accredited SDO since 1976.

ACI staff's concern about the current ANSI process, and why we are interested in pursuing the IAS proposal, is that ANSI's process is changing to an ISO process, as is evidenced by our latest audit. The *Essential Requirements* do not require the ISO process and, to ACI's understanding, allow for many interpretations on how the requirements can be met. ACI's process meets the *Essential Requirements*, however, our process is similar to ASTM. The current process that ANSI is trying to enforce is also not responsive to the large documents produced for building code reference standards and the predictable schedule on which those documents need to be produced.

The ICC rules on accepting referenced standards state that standards may be developed by either an ASTM- or ANSI-type process. ASTM does not have an SDO accreditation process; therefore, only leaving ANSI as an avenue for accreditation.

The Federal Government agencies that ACI works with no longer require ANSI accreditation. ACI standards are adopted or adapted in countries worldwide; these countries also do not require ANSI accreditation. ACI does not have a need for ANSI accreditation unless the ICC is going to make this a requirement. ICC is the organization that ACI staff would like to work with in accrediting standards as the ICC is specific to the construction standards industry, and it is our belief that ICC could develop a process that is fair to all parties, but still responsive to the unique needs of ICC reference standard developers. If the ICC will require accreditation, ACI would like to pursue accreditation via ICC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew R. Senecal", written in a cursive style.

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