



ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR FABRICATOR INSPECTION PROGRAMS FOR WOOD WALL PANELS

AC196

**June 26, 2024
(Effective August 1, 2024)**

PREFACE

The attached accreditation criteria have been issued to provide all interested parties with guidelines on implementing performance features of the applicable standards referenced herein. The criteria were developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Accreditation Committee and are effective on the date shown above. All accreditations issued or reissued on or after the effective date must comply with these criteria. If the criteria are an updated version from a previous edition, solid vertical lines (|) in the outer margin within the criteria indicate a technical change or addition from the previous edition. Deletion indicators (→) are provided in the outer margins where a paragraph or item has been deleted if the deletion resulted from a technical change. These criteria may be further revised as the need dictates.

IAS may consider alternate criteria provided the proponent submits substantiating data demonstrating that the alternate criteria are at least equivalent to the attached criteria and otherwise meet applicable accreditation requirements.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Fabricator Inspection Programs for Wood Wall Panels. These criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Accreditation of Fabricator Inspection Programs and are to specify a quality assurance program for IAS-accredited fabricators of wood wall panels. Fabricators complying with these criteria will have demonstrated they have the personnel, organization, experience, knowledge and commitment to fabricate wood wall panels in accordance with specified requirements. IAS-approved fabricators operate under a documented management system developed in concert with an inspection agency that conducts unannounced inspections to verify continued compliance with these criteria.

Fabricators complying with these criteria will be recognized as approved in accordance with Chapter 17 of the *International Building Code*.

Compliance with these criteria fulfills the requirements for periodic special inspection required by Section 1705.11.2 of the IBC (Section 1707.3 of the 2009 and earlier editions of the IBC).

These criteria are limited to fabrication only and do not apply to the fabricated products or the design or performance characteristics of the products.

- 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).

1.2.1. International Building Code®, International Code Council.

1.2.2. ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity assessment - Vocabulary and general principles.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these accreditation criteria, the definitions given in ISO/IEC Standard 17000, and the definitions that follow, apply

- 2.1. **Accreditation:** Third-party attestation related to a fabricator conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.
- 2.2. **Accreditation Body (AB):** An approved, third-party organization that is independent of the grading and inspection agencies, and the lumber mills, and that initially accredits and subsequently monitors, on a continuing basis, the competency and performance of a grading or inspection agency related to carrying out specific tasks.

- 2.3. **Approved Fabricator:** An established and qualified person, firm or corporation approved by the building official pursuant to Chapter 17 of the International Building Code (IBC) published by the International Code Council.
- 2.4. **Assessment:** Process undertaken by an accreditation body to assess the competence of a fabricator, based on a particular standard(s) and/or other normative documents and for a defined scope of accreditation.
- 2.5. **Contract Documents:** Documents that describe the fabricator's responsibilities for a given project. These documents include work orders, drawings, and project specifications.
- 2.6. **Corrective Action:** Implemented action of solutions necessary to eliminate or reduce the root cause of an identified problem.
- 2.7. **Inspection Agency:** An agency furnishing inspection services, accredited by IAS in accordance with the IAS Accreditation Criteria for Inspection Agencies (AC98).
- 2.8. **Management System:** A set of interrelated or interacting elements that organizations use to direct, control and coordinate how policies are implemented and objectives are achieved.
- 2.9. **Nonconformance:** An action employed that renders a member or component unacceptable for the intended use as specified in contract specifications or these criteria.
- 2.10. **Procedure:** An implemented and written document that describes who does what, when, where, why and how.
- 2.11. **Product:** Result of activities or processes.
- Note 1:** A product may include service, hardware, processed materials, or a combination thereof.
- Note 2:** A product can be tangible (e.g., assemblies or processed materials) or intangible (e.g., knowledge or concepts), or a combination thereof.
- 2.12. **Project:** A process consisting of a set of coordinated and controlled activities undertaken to achieve customer requirements.
- 2.13. **Quality Assurance:** A planned and systematic pattern of all actions necessary to provide adequate confidence a product will conform to established requirements.
- 2.14. **Quality Control:** The act of examination, testing or measurement that verifies processes, services or that documents conform to specified criteria.
- 2.15. **Quality Plan:** A written document prepared by the Quality Manager (however named) which describes the procedures and policies implemented to assure product quality meets specific contract documents. As a minimum, quality plans must meet the requirements of AC196.
- 2.16. **Surveillance:** Set of activities, except reassessment, to monitor the continued fulfillment by accredited fabricators of requirements for accreditation.
- 2.17. **Wood Wall Panels:** Factory-assembled, conventionally framed wood wall panels meeting the requirements of Chapter 23 of the IBC.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Accreditation services are available to fabricators of “conventionally framed wood wall panels,” complying with the design and construction requirements of Chapter 23 of the IBC.

4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

4.1. Fabricator inspection programs for wood wall panels must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

- 4.1.1. The requirements of these accreditation criteria;
- 4.1.2. IAS Rules of Procedure for Accreditation of Fabricator Inspection Programs.

4.2. General Requirements

4.2.1. Quality System

- 4.2.1.1. The approved fabricator shall establish and implement a fully documented management system. This documented management system shall describe the fabricator's procedures for ensuring that fabricated products meet the specified requirements.
- 4.2.1.2. The fabricator, in concert with an IAS-accredited inspection agency, shall prepare and submit to IAS its documented management system, including a cross-reference matrix ensuring the data in Section 4.3, the statements in Section 4.4, and the written procedures noted in Section 4.5 of these accreditation criteria have been incorporated.
- 4.2.1.3. The submitted management system document shall be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the fabricator.
- 4.2.1.4. The submitted cross-reference matrix shall be signed and dated by an authorized representative of an IAS-accredited inspection agency, attesting the agency has reviewed the fabricator's documented management system. The purpose of the agency's review is to ensure there is adequate detail for the agency to properly perform its inspection functions.
- 4.2.2. **Quality Manager:** The fabricator shall designate a quality manager who is independent of production, and who, irrespective of other responsibilities, shall have defined responsibility and authority for the following:
 - 4.2.2.1. Maintaining the fabricator's documented quality assurance management system.
 - 4.2.2.2. Monitoring the effective implementation of the fabricator's documented management system.
 - 4.2.2.3. Assuring periodic internal audits are conducted and documented, and corrective actions are implemented.
 - 4.2.2.4. Assuring annual management reviews are conducted and documented.

- 4.2.2.5. Ensuring all production and quality records are properly maintained.
- 4.2.2.6. Reviewing all fabrication procedures and specifications before they are used in fabrication operations.
- 4.2.3. **In-house Quality Control Inspector:** The fabricator shall designate an in-house quality control inspector who must:
 - 4.2.3.1. Be familiar with codes and specifications which apply to the fabrication work performed.
 - 4.2.3.2. Be familiar with production drawings, material specifications, material grading and tolerance levels.
 - 4.2.3.3. Be responsible for overall workmanship and compliance to plans and specifications.
 - 4.2.3.4. Be responsible for ensuring only fabricated items that meet the required specifications are labeled or otherwise identified as complying.
 - 4.2.3.5. Be responsible for ensuring all required inspections are properly carried out at appropriate stages of fabrication.
 - 4.2.3.6. Be responsible for ensuring the final products can be traced back to the incoming raw materials, the quality assurance records and the individual fabrication personnel.
- 4.2.4. **Fabrication Personnel:** The fabricator shall ensure the following conditions are met:
 - 4.2.4.1. All fabrication personnel are qualified to perform their assigned tasks based on education, training and/or experience. Appropriate records of training and experience must be maintained.
 - 4.2.4.2. All fabrication personnel have an identifying number, letter or symbol for the purpose of traceability.

4.3. **Required Data**

The following information shall be included in the management system submittal:

- 4.3.1. The name, street address and telephone number of the fabrication facility.
- 4.3.2. A floor plan of the fabrication facility.
- 4.3.3. A list of major production equipment, keyed to the floor plan.
- 4.3.4. A list of typical items fabricated.
- 4.3.5. A list of qualified fabrication personnel.
- 4.3.6. The names of the quality manager and his designated deputy in case of his absence.
- 4.3.7. The names of the in-house control inspector and his designated deputy in case of his absence.
- 4.3.8. An organizational chart of the fabricator, including the names of the responsible quality assurance personnel. This chart shall show the relationships among the management, quality manager, in-house quality control inspector, deputy in-house inspector and fabrication personnel.

- 4.3.9. Specifications and means of identification for all incoming raw materials.
- 4.3.10. A list of approved vendors, including any testing agencies used to verify fabrication procedures.
- 4.3.11. A list of test and measuring equipment used for the quality functions of the fabricator.

4.4. Required Statements

The following statements shall be provided in the management system submittal:

- 4.4.1. A policy statement which includes the following elements:
 - 4.4.1.1. All activities of the organization shall be directed in such a manner as to ensure the quality requirements of these criteria will be met.
 - 4.4.1.2. The elements of the quality assurance program shall be disseminated to all responsible personnel.
- 4.4.2. The documented management system shall be reviewed, at a minimum, annually.
- 4.4.3. IAS shall be notified, in writing, prior to any cancellation of the inspection agreement with the inspection agency.
- 4.4.4. Copies of reports of inspections conducted by the inspection agency, if they note major quality deficiencies, shall be forwarded by the fabricator to IAS within 10 days of the major deficiency being reported.
- 4.4.5. The fabricator shall notify the inspection agency when the fabrication facility is to be closed for extended time periods other than for normally scheduled periods for maintenance or vacations. IAS and the inspection agency shall be notified prior to resumption of operations.
- 4.4.6. IAS shall be notified in writing if the required, unannounced, follow-up inspections have not been conducted by the inspection agency.
- 4.4.7. The fabricator shall promptly investigate and respond to IAS or a building official when apprised of complaints regarding the noncompliance of fabricated product with stated specifications.

4.5. Required Written Procedures

The fabricator shall submit written procedures for the following:

- 4.5.1. **Contract Review:** Review of new work to ensure the needed resources exist to fulfill the contract requirements.
- 4.5.2. **Document Control:** Control of documents and data relating to the quality functions of the fabricator. This control shall include the following:
 - 4.5.2.1. A means of document approval.
 - 4.5.2.2. A means to ensure only current, approved documents are used.

- 4.5.2.3. A means of ensuring documents are available at all locations where necessary for the proper functioning of the quality system.
- 4.5.3. **Purchasing**
 - 4.5.3.1. Determining that purchased products will conform to specified requirements.
 - 4.5.3.2. Evaluation of subcontractors for their ability to meet subcontract requirements (if applicable).
- 4.5.4. **Product Traceability:** Traceability of the finished product to:
 - 4.5.4.1. Incoming raw materials.
 - 4.5.4.2. Responsible fabrication personnel.
 - 4.5.4.3. Plans and specifications.
 - 4.5.4.4. Quality records.
 - 4.5.4.5. Production records.
- 4.5.5. **Process Control**
 - 4.5.5.1. For developing fabrication drawings and specifications that conform with the contract requirements.
 - 4.5.5.2. Verification of the following:
 - 4.5.5.2.1. Proper materials.
 - 4.5.5.2.2. Proper assembly.
 - 4.5.5.2.3. Dimensions and accuracy.
- 4.5.6. **Inspection and Testing**
 - 4.5.6.1. Inspection of incoming raw materials and review of certificate of compliance to ensure compliance with purchasing documents.
 - 4.5.6.2. Inspection of finished product.
- 4.5.7. **Control of Inspection, Measuring and Test Equipment**
 - 4.5.7.1. The maintenance schedule and calibration procedures for fabrication equipment.
 - 4.5.7.2. Ensuring traceability of calibration to nationally recognized standards.
- 4.5.8. **Control of Nonconforming Product:** Methods of identifying, segregating, and assigning the disposition of nonconforming:
 - 4.5.8.1. Incoming materials.
 - 4.5.8.2. Product in production.
 - 4.5.8.3. Finished product.
- 4.5.9. **Corrective Action:** Investigating, documenting and correcting non-conformance.
- 4.5.10. **Handling and Storage:** Identifying and storing incoming materials and finished products.
- 4.5.11. **Internal Audits:** The frequency, method of documentation and the content of internal audits to determine the effectiveness of the management system. An in-depth internal

audit of the implementation of the complete documented management system shall be conducted at appropriate intervals but not less than once per year.

4.5.12. **Control of Quality Records:** Methods for storing, maintaining and accessing quality control records. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of two years, and shall include at a minimum:

4.5.12.1. In-house quality inspection reports, forms, checklists.

4.5.12.2. Mill test reports and certificates of compliance from vendors, for incoming raw materials.

4.5.12.3. Copies of inspection reports by the inspection agency.

4.5.12.4. Records of internal audits and management reviews.

4.5.12.5. Training and qualification records.

4.5.12.6. Evaluations of vendors and subcontractors.

4.5.13. **Training:** Procedure for training all personnel who have an effect on the quality of the finished product.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

ANSI/ISO/ASQC Q9001, Quality Systems—Model for Quality Assurance in Design, Development, Production, Installation and Servicing.

6. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

6.1. IAS – www.iasonline.org

6.2. International Code Council – www.iccsafe.org

These criteria were previously issued September 2002, June 2003, May 2004, October 2008, September 2013, September 2014 and July 2016