

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AGENCY ACCREDITATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Scope:** The purpose of these rules is to establish procedures governing accreditation of Product Certification Agencies by International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS).

IAS accreditation does not make any representation nor should it be construed as making representation regarding attributes not specifically addressed by the accreditation. Accreditation also does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for use of a particular product or product certification agency.

1.2 Reference Documents

- 1.2.1 IAS Accreditation Criteria for Product Certification Agencies, AC370.
1.2.2 IAS Rules of Procedure for Appeals Concerning International Accreditation Service, Inc., Actions

2.0 INITIAL ACCREDITATION

2.1 Initial Application, Fees and Assessment Costs

- 2.1.1 Each initial application must be submitted through the IAS Customer portal.
2.1.2 The new applicant must submit appropriate basic fee and assessment cost as identified in your quotation.
2.1.3 The basic fee covers one category of product certification, as applicable and as provided in your quotation.
2.1.4 If any additional categories are identified during the course of accreditation, additional fees may apply. Categories of product certification are broadly categorized as a distinct expertise (e.g., building products, energy efficiency, electrical, etc.).
2.1.5 Initial applications held for more than 180 days, without the applicant's having fulfilled IAS requirements for accreditation, are subject to cancellation unless such term is extended by the IAS president or his/her designee.

- 2.1.6 All IAS fees are nonrefundable.
- 2.1.7 **Taxes and charges:** All sales, use, excise, value-added and similar taxes and charges are the responsibility of the applicant, and the applicant agrees to reimburse IAS for any such taxes and charges imposed on IAS with respect to services provided by IAS.
- 2.1.8 Required documentation as noted in Sections 4 and 5 of IAS AC370 must be submitted.
- 2.1.9 Desired scope of accreditation detailing the categories for which accreditation is sought must be submitted. As an example, the following format is recommended:
- Fire Resistant Products and Components**
Door and Door Frame Hardware
Roof Covering Systems
- 2.1.10 IAS may at any time, in addition to the required documentation noted above, require other information.
- 2.1.11 Initial applicants will be invoiced for the balance of costs and expenses resulting from the onsite assessment.
- 2.1.12 Additional fees, if any, due to identification of any additional categories of product certification (refer to section 2.1.4) at the conclusion of the accreditation process will be invoiced.

2.2 Initial Assessment

- 2.2.1 Upon receipt by IAS of the application, applicable fees, required documentation and the desired scope of accreditation, IAS will process the application as follows:
- 2.2.1.1 A review of submitted documentation will be conducted to determine preliminary compliance with applicable requirements. A letter summarizing preliminary observations will be relayed to the applicant, including a request for any additional data which may be required prior to scheduling the initial assessment.
- 2.2.1.2 An (optional) onsite pre-assessment visit may be scheduled at the discretion of the applicant for the purpose of determining preliminary compliance with applicable requirements. IAS and assessors shall ensure that no consultancy is provided during this pre-assessment exercise.

2.2.1.3 Initial Assessment: In consultation with the applicant, initial onsite assessments at the agency's headquarters and in the field will be scheduled to verify compliance with the accreditation requirements.

Witnessing Inspection Activities: IAS will witness onsite inspections conducted by the applicant certification body. Selection of the number of inspections to be witnessed, including scope and inspector for the witness, is based on various factors – risk, complexity, technology utilized, etc. IAS retains the right to select the inspectors and inspections to be witnessed.

2.2.1.4 Response to Assessment Report: A written response to any Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Concerns identified during the initial assessment shall be submitted to IAS within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the assessment as follows:

- 2.2.1.4.1 Corrective Action Requests (CARs) require a mandatory response on actions taken by the product certification agency to resolve the CARs, including objective evidence substantiating the actions taken. The response must include root cause analysis to support CAR closures where appropriate. Resolution of CARs requiring revisions to the product certification agency's management and technical system must be documented and submitted to IAS. Objective evidence may be in the form of revisions to procedures, additional training, mentoring and monitoring given to personnel accompanied by appropriate records, and/or other data.
- 2.2.1.4.2 Concerns require a mandatory written response from the product certification agency within 30 days of submission of the assessment report. While objective evidence addressing Concerns is not mandatory, the product certification agency must inform IAS on the action taken or intended action to be undertaken with a timeline for completion. The action taken by the organization to implement actions to resolve concerns will be verified at the agency's next scheduled assessment or during a follow-up assessment.
- 2.2.1.4.3 If more than 30 days are needed to resolve CARs or Concerns, the product certification agency must request, in writing, for an extension from IAS. Requests for an extension should be accompanied by a

reasonable estimate on when the responses will be submitted for review.

2.2.1.4.4 IAS reserves the right to conduct a follow-up assessment to determine if CARs and Concerns have been satisfactorily resolved.

2.2.1.4.5 Failure to resolve all CARS and Concerns within six months from the date of assessment will result in a reassessment or further action against the accreditation as called for in these rules.

2.2.2 IAS will grant accreditation upon determination that based on the onsite assessment and review of evidence submitted, the applicant has met all the accreditation requirements as a product certification agency for the product categories noted in the scope of accreditation certificate and available on the IAS website.

2.2.3 IAS may decide not to grant accreditation to the applicant for not fulfilling accreditation requirements. Any applicant denied accreditation may appeal this decision as per requirements noted under Section 6.2 of these rules.

2.2.4 Each initial accreditation is valid for a one-year period from the accreditation date.

2.3 Assessment for Agencies Already Accredited by an IAS-recognized AB: The number of audit days for any onsite assessment may be reduced up to 50% by IAS if the agency is already accredited to ISO/IEC Standard 17065 by an IAS-recognized accreditation body (AB). For this to occur, the agency must be in good standing with the AB. Additionally, the information listed below must be submitted to IAS for review and a determination made by IAS that the onsite assessment time can be reduced and to what extent:

2.3.1 Previous two years' worth of audit reports from your current AB.

2.3.2 Corrective actions for any deficiencies noted in those audit reports and AB's sign off on the corrective actions or deficiencies, IAS will review them and make a decision as to status.

2.3.3 Organizational chart (if not part of the quality management system manual).

2.3.4 Completed IAS ISO/IEC Standard 17065 checklist. Applicant may substitute current AB's ISO/IEC Standard 17065 checklist if completed and equivalent in content to IAS checklist.

3.0 MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITATION

3.1 Renewal Application, Fees and Assessment Costs

- 3.1.1 Each renewal application must be submitted through the IAS Customer portal.
- 3.1.2 An application to renew accreditation must be filed at least 15 days prior to the expiration date if continued accreditation is desired and shall be accompanied by the applicable fee as identified in the renewal notice.
- 3.1.3 Accreditation is subject to cancellation if an application to renew accreditation is not completed by the renewal date.
- 3.1.4 **Taxes and charges:** All sales, use, excise, value-added and similar taxes and charges are the responsibility of the applicant, and the applicant agrees to reimburse IAS for any such taxes and charges imposed on IAS with respect to services provided by IAS.
- 3.1.5 All expenses, including but not limited to travel and staff time, related to the assessments are reimbursable to IAS by the product certification agency.
- 3.1.6 Additional fees, if any, due to identification of any additional categories of certification (refer to section 2.1.4) at the conclusion of the accreditation process will be invoiced.

3.2 Surveillance Assessment after Initial Year of Accreditation

- 3.2.1 All accredited product certification agencies are subject to a surveillance assessment at the end of the initial year of accreditation. IAS will determine whether the surveillance assessment may be conducted remotely or onsite. Determination will be based on factors including: severity of CARs and Concerns from the initial assessment, changes in the management system as indicated in the renewal application, complaints received by IAS in the past year and the risk associated with the scope of accreditation.
- 3.2.2 **Onsite Surveillance Assessment**
 - 3.2.2.1 If IAS determines an onsite surveillance assessment is required, IAS staff will contact the product certification agency to schedule the assessment.
 - 3.2.2.2 At minimum, the following information shall be reviewed during the onsite surveillance assessment: the product certification agency's internal audit, management review and impartiality committee meeting reports/minutes; any complaints; actions resulting from any Concerns noted in the previous assessment report; any major changes in key personnel, facilities, or any

other significant changes in the scope of accreditation or the product certification agency's management system.

3.2.2.3 Surveillance assessment process is similar to the initial assessment process noted above.

3.2.2.4 IAS may decide not to grant accreditation to the accredited product certification agency for not fulfilling accreditation requirements. Any applicant denied accreditation may appeal this decision as per requirements noted under Section 6 of these rules.

3.2.2.5 For currently-accredited product certification agencies, failure to respond to an IAS assessment report within 90 days will result in suspension of accreditation and removal of the product certification agency's accreditation certificate from the IAS website.

3.2.3 Remote Surveillance Assessment

3.2.3.1 If IAS determines that the product certification agency qualifies for a remote surveillance assessment, the product certification agency shall provide the following information: the product certification agency's internal audit, management review and impartiality committee meeting reports/minutes; any complaints; actions resulting from any Concerns noted in the previous assessment report; any major changes in key personnel, facilities, or any other significant changes in the scope of accreditation or the management system of the product certification agency.

3.2.3.2 IAS will review the submittals and make a determination if the accreditation can be continued or an onsite surveillance assessment is required.

3.2.3.3 IAS may decide not to grant accreditation to the accredited product certification agency for not fulfilling accreditation requirements. Any applicant denied accreditation may appeal this decision as per requirements noted under Section 6 of these rules.

3.2.4 IAS will grant accreditation upon determination based on surveillance assessment and completion of renewal application that the accredited product certification agency has met the accreditation requirements for the categories of certification noted in the scope of accreditation certificate and available on the IAS website.

3.3 Onsite Reassessment

- 3.3.1 An onsite reassessment is required at the end of every two-year term commencing from the date of initial accreditation.
- 3.3.2 In consultation with the accredited product certification agency, an onsite assessment will be scheduled to verify compliance with the accreditation requirements.
- 3.3.3 Onsite reassessment process is similar to the initial assessment process noted above.

Witnessing Inspection Activities: IAS will witness onsite inspections conducted by the accredited certification body. Selection of the number of inspections to be witnessed, including scope and inspector for the witness, is based on various factors – risk, complexity, technology utilized, etc. IAS retains the right to select the inspectors and inspections to be witnessed.

- 3.3.4 For currently-accredited product certification agencies, failure to respond to an IAS assessment report within 90 days will result in suspension of accreditation and removal of the product certification agency's accreditation certificate from the IAS website.

3.4 Scope Extension Assessments

- 3.4.1 Requests for extension of scope require submission of a formal request detailing the extension (e.g., categories of certification) requested.
- 3.4.2 Product certification agencies seeking extension of scope may be subject to an onsite scope extension assessment, including witnessing of inspection activities.
- 3.4.3 In consultation with the accredited product certification agency, an onsite assessment will be scheduled.

3.5 Extraordinary Assessments

- 3.5.1 Extraordinary onsite assessments may be conducted, including unannounced assessments, to investigate formal complaints or other changes in a product certification agency's status that may affect the ability of the product certification agency to fulfill IAS requirements for accreditation.
- 3.5.2 All costs associated with the extraordinary assessment will be the responsibility of the accredited product certification agency.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AGENCY

- 4.1 Changes to Product Certification Agency's Accreditation Status:** Product certification agencies accredited under these rules shall notify IAS in writing within thirty days concerning the following:
- 4.1.1 Change in product certification agency name.
 - 4.1.2 Change in product certification agency ownership.
 - 4.1.3 Change in product certification agency address.
 - 4.1.4 Changes in facilities, equipment, policies or procedures that affect the product certification agency's accreditation.
 - 4.1.5 Changes in principal officers or key supervisory personnel.
 - 4.1.6 Change in status, including but not limited to cancellation, revocation, suspension or withdrawal of other accreditations maintained by the product certification agency.
- 4.2 Product Certification Agencies Operating Under Special Jurisdictional/Governmental Regulations**
- 4.2.1 Regulatory entities may place specific compliance requirements on product certification agencies operating within their jurisdiction. If a product certification agency intends to seek acceptance of its certificates by these entities, they must agree to comply with the additional assessment requirements, including more frequent onsite assessments, as applicable.
 - 4.2.2 By executing the IAS application for product certification agency accreditation, the product certification agency agrees to furnish all needed documentation, pay the required fees, perform additional witness inspections, or otherwise fully comply with the requirements of the regulatory entities.
- 4.3 Indemnification:** All applications for an IAS accreditation contain indemnification provisions.
- 4.4 Unannounced Assessments:** The product certification agency agrees to permit unannounced assessments of its office and facilities by the IAS for cause, such as formal complaints, pattern of nonconformance, regulatory requests, etc.

4.5 Usage of the IAS Name or Symbol by Accredited Product Certification Agencies

4.5.1 An accredited product certification agency can make reference to its IAS accreditation on its website, in its general literature and promotional materials, and in business solicitations, under the following provisions:

4.5.1.1 The product certification agency may not reference its accredited status in any way that indicates or implies accreditation in areas outside the actual scope of the specific IAS accreditation; or that indicates or implies IAS endorsement of any particular product, service or material certified by the agency.

4.5.1.2 When the IAS name and/or the registered symbol are used, it shall be accompanied by the word "ACCREDITED." The symbol must also include the name of the accredited program, e.g., "Product Certification Agency."

4.5.1.3 When the IAS name or the registered symbol is printed on letterhead and/or other product certification agency stationery, such stationery **may not** be used for work proposals or quotations if none of the work is within the product certification agency's current scope of accreditation with IAS.

4.5.1.4 The IAS registered symbol is to be used on IAS-endorsed certificates. The IAS registered symbol may not be changed in any way, although it may be enlarged or reduced.

4.5.1.5 The IAS registered symbol displayed on the product certification agency's IAS-endorsed certificates must include the name of the accredited program, e.g., "Product Certification Agency," provided the certificates relate to categories that are within the product certification agency's IAS-approved scope of accreditation. Whenever the IAS symbol is used on a certificate covering multiple categories, some of which are within the product certification agency's scope of accreditation and some of which are outside the scope, the product certification agency must clearly identify whatever portion of the certificate is not covered by IAS accreditation.

4.5.2 It is the product certification agency's responsibility to not misrepresent its accreditation status in any way, and to secure IAS approval in advance whenever there is a question about the product certification agency's intended use of the IAS name and/or symbol.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE

- 5.1 **Accreditation Documents:** A certificate of accreditation and scope of accreditation document shall be issued and maintained current for each accredited product certification agency upon satisfactory completion of the accreditation requirements. For each accredited product certification agency, the scope of accreditation shall be posted on the IAS website. Accreditation actions will also be noted on the IAS website.
- 5.2 **Fee Modifications:** Any modifications to the fees must be reviewed and approved by the IAS president or his/her designee.
- 5.3 **Proprietary Data:** Data in any accreditation file or application are considered proprietary to the applicant. The data may be disclosed by IAS only upon the written consent of the applicant or pursuant to subpoena issued by a court or other governmental agency of competent jurisdiction. Proprietary data may also be disclosed to a staff member of IAS or an authorized representative of IAS having a legitimate interest therein; any duly identified representative of any product certification agency, or like person or organization who initially prepared the data, or a duly authorized representative thereof stated to be an employee or principal thereof having a legitimate interest therein. Governmental regulatory bodies may be granted access in the interest of public safety or preservation of property as it relates to enforcement of laws/regulations upon receipt of an official written request.
- 5.4 **Access to Proprietary Data:** From time to time, IAS records and files are audited by national and international bodies on a random basis to establish conformance with international accreditation and conformity assessment standards. It is understood that, by executing an accreditation application, product certification agencies grant IAS the authority to allow such access.
- 5.5 **Selection of Assessment Team:** IAS will provide an opportunity to the applicant or accredited product certification agency to appeal against an assessor or assessment team assigned to assess the product certification agency. This appeal must request in writing with the reasons identified. IAS, in mutual agreement with the product certification agency, may arrange to assign a different assessor or assessment team for the scheduled assessment.

6.0 DENIAL, REVOCATION, MODIFICATION, SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OF THE ACCREDITATION, AND APPEALS

- 6.1 Any accreditation is subject to denial, revocation, modification, suspension or cancellation upon occurrence of any of the following:
- 6.1.1 Failure by the product certification agency to comply with the current or updated Rules of Procedure.
 - 6.1.2 Failure to comply with the current or updated Accreditation Criteria.
 - 6.1.3 Failure to comply with any condition to the issuance of the accreditation.
 - 6.1.4 Any misstatement, whether intentionally or unintentionally made, in the application or any data or documentation submitted in support thereof.
 - 6.1.5 Failure to comply with any provision contained in the application.
 - 6.1.6 Failure to comply with any terms of the management system documentation on which the IAS accreditation was based.
 - 6.1.7 Any other grounds considered as adequate cause in the judgment of IAS.

6.2 Appeals

- 6.2.1 The denial, revocation, modification, suspension or cancellation of accreditation may only be appealed by the holder of the accreditation.
- 6.2.2 Procedures for appeals of denial, revocation, modification, suspension or cancellation of accreditation shall be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Appeals Concerning International Accreditation Service, Inc., Actions. The IAS president or his/her designee, or the Board of Directors, as the case may be, may shorten any of the time periods set forth in the Rules of Procedure for Appeals Concerning International Accreditation Service, Inc., Actions, if such action is deemed necessary, in their discretion, in the interest of public safety and welfare.

- 6.3 **With No Right To Appeal:** Notwithstanding anything in these rules to the contrary, any initial application, or accreditation may be denied, revoked, modified, suspended or cancelled by the IAS president or his/her designee for any of the following reasons with no right of appeal:

- 6.3.1 Failure to pay required fees to IAS within thirty days from the date of the mailing by IAS of written demand for payment.

- 6.3.2 Failure to perform any test or to furnish any material or data relating to product certification agency accreditation required by IAS within the specified time limit, unless extended by the IAS president or his/her designee.
- 6.3.3 Failure to respond and resolve IAS Corrective Action Requests or Concerns resulting from an IAS assessment report in the allotted time, unless extended by the IAS president or his/her designee.
- 6.3.4 Failure to permit or submit to an assessment as set forth in Sections 2 and 3 and, if applicable, the special oversight requirements stipulated in Section 4.3 of the Rules of Procedure.
- 6.3.5 Failure to furnish information and/or submit to a remote surveillance assessment as required in Section 3.2.3 of these rules within the specified time limit.

6.4 Results Of Denial, Revocation, Modification, Suspension or Cancellation

- 6.4.1 Upon the occurrence of any of the events set forth in Section 6.1 or Section 6.3, IAS, by the decision of its president or his/her designee, may choose any of the following actions:
 - 6.4.1.1 Denial of the application.
 - 6.4.1.2 Revocation of the accreditation.
 - 6.4.1.3 Modification of the accreditation, on such terms as determined by the IAS president or his/her designee.
 - 6.4.1.4 Suspension of the accreditation for such period on such terms as determined by the IAS president or his/her designee.
 - 6.4.1.5 Cancellation of the accreditation.
- 6.4.2 The decisions of the IAS president or his/her designee with respect to any of the actions set forth in this section may become effective immediately if deemed necessary, in the interest of public safety and welfare, may be stayed pending an appeal pursuant to the Rules of Procedure for Appeals Concerning International Accreditation Service, Inc., Actions, or may be otherwise stayed on such terms and conditions as determined by the president or his/her designee.
- 6.4.3 Upon revocation or cancellation of the accreditation or during any period of suspension, unless this provision is specifically modified by the terms of the suspension, the accredited product certification agency shall discontinue all

use of the IAS symbol. The product certification agency shall also immediately discontinue any references to IAS accreditation on any reports, certificates, or promotional material.

6.4.4 IAS shall have the right to immediately notify governmental jurisdictions and any other interested parties of any improper and unauthorized reference to the continuation of the accreditation, when in the sole judgment of IAS, as determined by its president or his/her designee, such notification is necessary in the interest of public safety or welfare.

6.4.5 Upon the determination by IAS that cause exists for any of the actions specified in this section, with respect to the accreditation, IAS shall deliver to the product certification agency a written statement, signed by the IAS president or his/her designee, setting forth the factual basis for such action. This written statement shall include a specific reference to the cause for the action which is set forth in the Rules of Procedure. ▪