

Attachment A – IAS Testing and Special Inspection Agency  
Approval Information (Guidance)

A. Special Inspection Agencies Program

In response to a request from several ICC governmental members, International Accreditation Service (IAS) has developed an accreditation program for agencies providing the special inspections that are required for specific construction projects under IBC Chapter 17.

The IAS Special Inspection Agency Accreditation Program is based primarily on the requirements of the IBC and the applicable portions of ISO/IEC 17020, *General Requirements for the Operation of Various Bodies Performing Inspection*.

The program requires special inspection agencies to operate under a quality management system that is documented in a manual, and also requires the agency to be assessed in the field to determine if it is competent to perform specific inspections or types of inspections.

IAS accreditation is based on the assessment of a special inspection agency's inspection procedures, the competence of its inspection staff and its reporting procedures.

B. Testing Laboratories Program

Industry depends on reliable assessment of testing and calibration laboratories, inspection agencies and fabricator inspection programs. Accurate test, calibration and inspection results are vital for the protection of public health and safety and to facilitate trade.

IAS operates nationally and internationally-recognized accreditation programs, some of which are specifically tailored to the needs of the building official. The laboratory accreditation program is modeled on ISO 17025 and is recognized globally by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC).

Laboratory accreditation, traceability of measurements and uniform testing requirements minimize technical barriers to trade and reduce the financial burden on manufacturers.

Evaluation of a product, material or piece of equipment should be based on reports from accredited testing laboratories that are supported by accredited calibration laboratories to ensure traceable and repeatable measurements.