

FAQ's - Accreditation, Assembler Metal Building Systems

THE MBCEA PRESENTS AC478, ACCREDITATION FOR ASSEMBLERS OF METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

The Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association (MBCEA), is a trade association created in 1968 to provide programs and services to the contractor and erector segment of the metal building systems industry. The mission of the MBCEA is to support the professional advancement of metal building. The MBCEA has 3 main goals:

- **Education:** To provide programs and venues that enhance educational opportunities for metal building contractors and erectors.
- **Image Enhancement:** To develop programs to enhance the image of metal building contractors and erectors, and the metal building industry.
- **Grassroots Support:** To develop and maintain programs specifically designed to support and respond to the needs of the grassroots membership of the MBCEA.

The new program, Accreditation for Assemblers of Metal Building Systems hits on all three goals. It is being called a game-changer for our industry. Detailed below are some answers to frequently asked questions.

Who are Assemblers of Metal Building Systems?

Assemblers of Metal Building Systems is defined and limited to Erectors and Contractors who are substantially engaged in the Assembly of Pre-Engineered Metal Buildings as defined in DOT Code:801.381-010 AIMS Code: 0877

Why not just call us erectors or contractors?

We do but these are generic words. The DOL recognizes what we do as a distinct trade class but we have never adopted their language. We continue to bid jobs as ironworkers, carpenters, sheet metal workers and roofers. Our WC rates are similarly based on these other trades. The Metal Building Industry represents almost 50% of all Low Rise Non-residential construction and more than \$2 Billion in Steel Shipments. We have unique and distinct skills; we have training and education specific to what we do. We just don't act like we have a name. But we do – it is Assembler, Metal Building Systems.

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a formal, independent verification that a program or institution meets established quality standards and is competent to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.

Accreditation has been used for over 50 years as the definitive means of evaluating organizations and is now utilized by all the world's major economies and many developing economies.

Why Accreditation?

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Worldwide demand for reliable, safe products and services makes accreditation a necessity. The best way to demonstrate the highest level of service and good value is through accreditation. Accreditation is essential if you are involved in any profession that has a direct impact on public safety and welfare.

Who can apply?

Any Assembler can apply that can demonstrate that they have the personnel, organization, experience, knowledge, quality procedures and commitment to assemble metal building systems in accordance with specified requirements.

We recognize that most of us can meet the standard but may have a hard time proving it. The MBCEA is prepared to assist all members with templates that can be used to facilitate your in-house documentation.

How hard is it?

The MBCEA grappled with this question and is committed to an accreditation program that has teeth and is meaningful but is not so aspirational that only a very few can achieve. The program is designed to recognize the average erector; the Assembler who is committed to doing the right thing. The stated goal of the program is to separate out the rascals and level the playing field. In other words, if you are a member of the MBCEA, if you are committed to safety, training and education it should not be too hard!

Who is the IAS?

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) provides objective evidence that an organization operates at the highest level of ethical, legal and technical standards. IAS is a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation that has been providing accreditation services since 1975. It is a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), a professional membership association that develops the construction codes and standards used by most municipalities within the United States. IAS accreditation programs are based on recognized national and international standards that ensure domestic and/or global acceptance of its accreditations.

What is the IAS Accreditation Mark

Where ever you see the IAS Accreditation Mark, it means that a company has been evaluated for its technical competence and quality of service and has proven that it meets recognized standards. The IAS Accreditation Mark is recognized and accepted around the world as a symbol for organizations that meet the standards that matter the most.



- **Competency:** IAS accreditation provides evidence that companies render competent services in line with national and international standards.
- **Confidence:** IAS's international recognition and reputation with industry provides complete confidence in the quality and competence of its services.
- **International Recognition:** Through a system of international arrangements with organizations including APLAC, ILAC, PAC, and IAF, the services of IAS-accredited companies are readily accepted in overseas markets. This recognition reduces costs for manufacturers, importers, and exporters that have their products tested, inspected, or certified by IAS-accredited entities

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eliminating the need for retesting, reinspection, or recertification in another country. The certificates of accreditation for all IAS-accredited entities are available for public viewing on the [IAS web site](#).

- **Outstanding Quality of Assessments:** IAS places tremendous importance on the training of its assessors. This leads to high levels of assessor competency, technical expertise, and value-added assessments.
- **Enhanced Knowledge Base:** With its excellent knowledge base and teams of technical experts, IAS helps to improve the quality of work performed by its accredited companies.

What is the Accreditation Process?

- IAS accredits organizations by verifying their technical competence and assessing their quality management systems based on recognized industry standards.
- The accreditation process begins with the customer's submittal of an application, applicable fees, and documentation cited in the applicable IAS accreditation criteria.
- An IAS accreditation officer partners with each customer throughout the accreditation process, beginning with a review of the submitted data and the requested scope of accreditation.
- Once the data has been reviewed and determined to comply with the applicable criteria, IAS matches an assessment team, comprising quality system, technical, and subject matter experts, to the requested scope of accreditation. The team conducts an on-site assessment and develops an assessment report.
- After satisfying IAS accreditation requirements and demonstrating technical competence, the customer receives an accreditation certificate.