

# Metal Building Assembler Inspection Accreditation Program

**IAS Accreditation is the standard for recognizing  
competent Metal Building Assemblers**



Metal building assemblers maintaining an IAS AC478 accredited inspection program are the preferred choice of metal building manufacturers.

International Accreditation Service (IAS) provides impartial verification that companies accredited to AC478 have management and inspection procedures that enable them to assemble metal building systems in accordance with specified construction and code requirements.

### Who Should Apply for Accreditation?

Assemblers of metal building systems, erectors and contractors who are involved in the assembly of metal buildings under DOT Code: 801.381-010 AIMS Code: 0877.

### What is Accreditation?

- Accreditation is used worldwide to verify the competence of companies and organizations.
- Accreditation involves a formal onsite assessment and ongoing monitoring performed by a third-party (accrediting organization) to determine if a company or entity has demonstrated competence and meets specified requirements to perform specific tasks.

### Why IAS Accreditation?

- IAS accreditation is recognized as a reliable indicator of technical competence.
- IAS accreditation is used by organizations to improve the quality and technical capabilities of their services and to improve their public image and marketability.
- IAS has worked with metal building erectors, metal building manufacturers, industry professionals and building departments to develop widely accepted accreditation programs.
- IAS accreditation is recognized by most federal, state and local governmental bodies.
- IAS is a third-party, nonprofit, internationally recognized accreditation body that is regularly evaluated for compliance with international standards by peer accrediting organizations worldwide.

### Overview – The Accreditation Process

AC478 is an accreditation criteria that establishes requirements for a voluntary inspection program for assemblers of metal building systems. The following is a brief overview of the steps to follow for companies interested in pursuing accreditation under AC478:

1. Download the Accreditation Criteria (AC478), IAS Rules of Procedure and the application for accreditation from [www.iasonline.org/ac478](http://www.iasonline.org/ac478)
2. Document and implement a management system that is based on the requirements in AC478, and that has been approved by IAS.
3. Submit the management system documentation, completed accreditation application and applicable fees to IAS.
4. Schedule an onsite joint assessment with IAS and an IAS-accredited inspection agency to verify compliance with AC478. At the end of this assessment, IAS will provide a report of its findings, including opportunities for improvement, concerns or nonconformances (if any) found during the onsite assessment.
5. IAS issues a Certificate of Accreditation once it has verified the assembler's inspection program has met all the criteria in AC478. The certificate will be placed online at [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org) for download 24/7.

### IAS Accreditation Mark

IAS accredited metal building assemblers may use the IAS mark to promote their company to new and current customers.



### Professional Advancement

The Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association (MBCEA) support the IAS AC478 Accreditation for the professional advancement of the metal building contractors and erectors industry.



## Who developed this accreditation program?

The Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association (MBCEA) approached IAS with a request to establish a benchmark for companies that have established an internal inspection protocol for the assembly of metal building systems. In August 2013, IAS began a series of meetings with MBCEA to develop an accreditation criteria for companies that assemble metal building systems. The goal of MBCEA was to have an independent and objective organization to oversee development, and ultimately manage the accreditation program.

A joint IAS/MBCEA Technical Committee was tasked with drafting AC478 and included a cross-functional team representing all facets of the industry. Members of the committee included representatives from: S&S Structures; Butler Manufacturing; NCI Building Systems; Chief Buildings; Thomas Phoenix International, Inc.; MMS Northeast; CHG Buildings Systems; MarKim Erection Co.; American Buildings Company, 201 Associates, LLC, and Systems Contractors.

Draft versions of AC478 were reviewed by an industry review committee whose members included representatives from Butler; MBCI; Behlen Building Systems; Chief Buildings; Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT); Bay Insulation; American Buildings Company; Varco Pruden Buildings and BlueScope Construction, Inc.

The efforts by the MBCEA and IAS to create the accreditation culminated in the approval of AC478, the IAS Accreditation Criteria for Inspection Practices for Metal Building Assemblers. The criteria were approved by the IAS Accreditation Committee on February 9, 2015, during IAS' public hearing in Los Angeles, CA.



## What is IAS AC478?

AC478 is the primary document used to accredit the inspection programs of contractors and building erectors that seek accreditation under the voluntary program. IAS AC478 is the IAS Accreditation Criteria that lists the inspection requirements that Metal Building System Assemblers must follow in order to achieve accreditation with IAS. The criteria is available for download at [www.iasonline.org/ac478](http://www.iasonline.org/ac478).

## What is the management system that Metal Building Assemblers need to implement to become accredited?

The management system is a set of documents that describes the assembly procedures and inspection processes for ensuring that constructed assemblies meet the specified requirements. Requirements for the management system documentation are listed in AC478. Work must conform to the local building code requirements and include the referenced standards.

## What happens during an onsite assessment?

IAS will schedule an assessment to observe the inspection practices of the metal building assembler on jobsites and in the applicant's office. The purpose of this assessment is for the metal building assembler to provide evidence that they are following the management system and inspection practices and related criteria in AC478. This includes evidence of following safety plans, training programs, inspection protocols and the organization's method of determining compliance.

## How do I apply for accreditation?

See previous section titled "Overview – The Accreditation Process." Visit [www.iasonline.org/ac478](http://www.iasonline.org/ac478).

## About IAS

IAS is a nonprofit subsidiary of the International Code Council® (ICC®) and a globally recognized accreditation body.

