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October 14, 2021

TO: IAS – INSPECTION AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Inspection Agencies, AC98-202112-R0 (PR)

Hearing Information:

IAS Accreditation Committee
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021
8:30 AM (California – PST)
WebEx Meeting – Refer to IAS website for details.

Dear Madam or Sir:

Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for **Accreditation Criteria for Inspection Agencies**, (AC98) has been placed on the agenda for committee consideration at the above-noted meeting.

Proposed changes include:

1. Clause 5.1: Revised to reference the appropriate clauses of ISO/IEC Standard 17020 and ILAC P15 (Lines 48-52)
2. Clause 5.1: Inclusion of Inspection Records with Reports and Certificates (Lines 48-52)

You are cordially invited to submit written comments, or to attend the WebEx committee hearing and present verbal comments. Written comments will be forwarded to the committee, **prior to the hearing**, if received by November 14, 2021. For your convenience, a comment form is provided. The link can be found on the Accreditation Committee meeting page on the IAS website, www.iasonline.org. Comments must be emailed to iasinfo@iasonline.org.

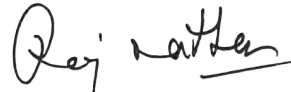
Parties interested in proposed revised criteria may deliver written communications and submissions regarding such proposed criteria to IAS within approximately 30 days of posting of the public notice on the IAS website. The committee shall be informed of all pertinent written communications received by IAS. Any relevant communication and changes to a criteria arising from the written communication/submission shall be posted to the IAS website prior to the meeting.

Participants at the accreditation committee meetings shall have the opportunity to speak on the proposed criteria to provide information to the committee. Committee meetings are generally held by electronic means. Participants are responsible to ensure access to appropriate computer equipment, software, and internet connectivity to ensure effective participation during the meeting.

Your cooperation is requested in forwarding to IAS, as noted above, all material directed to the committee. Prior to the hearing, parties interested in the deliberations of the committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with committee members regarding agenda items. The committee reserves the right to refuse communications that do not comply with this request.

If you have any questions, please contact IAS at 562-364-8201. You may also reach us by e-mail at iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raj Nathan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Raj Nathan
President

Enclosures: Proposed Revised AC98

cc: Accreditation Committee

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR INSPECTION AGENCIES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Inspection Agency accreditation. These criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Inspection Agency Accreditation.

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

1.2.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17020, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

1.2.2. ILAC P15, Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies.

1.2.3. ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles.

2. DEFINITIONS

Applicable definitions of ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Accreditation services are available to bodies that provide inspection services.

4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

Inspection Agencies must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

4.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17020, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

4.2. IAS Rules of Procedure for Inspection Agency Accreditation.

4.3. ILAC P15, Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

5.1. **Inspection Records, Reports and/or Certificates:** -Inspection records, reports and/or s/certificates issued by the inspection agency shall ~~be completed in accordance with~~ comply with: clauses 7.3.2, 7.4.1, 7.4 7.4.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.4 and 7.4.5 of ISO/IEC Standard 17020 and clauses 7.3.1n1 and 7.4.2n1 of ILAC P15, Annex B of ISO/IEC Standard 17020, Clauses 7.3.1a, 7.4.2a, 7.4.4a of ILAC P15, and shall accurately and clearly outline the results of inspections.

53 5.2. **Regulatory requirements:** Regulatory entities may place specific compliance requirements on
54 inspection agencies. If an inspection agency is required to comply with the regulatory
55 requirements as may be applicable, they must agree to comply with additional requirements.

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57 Inspection agencies must comply with regulatory requirements of Authority Having Jurisdiction
58 (AHJ) or other regulatory entities, including specific compliance requirements for qualification,
59 licensing, etc., of personnel and operation of inspection agency.

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61 6. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

62 6.1. Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.aplac.org

63 6.2. International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.ilac.org

64 6.3. International Organization for Standardization – www.iso.org

65 6.4. International Electrotechnical Commission – www.iec.ch

66 6.5. International Accreditation Service – www.iasonline.org

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69 *These criteria were previously issued September 2002, March 2004, May 2005, August 2006, October 2009, June 2013, February*

70 *2015, ~~and~~ February 2016, April 2017 and editorially revised January 2019*