

TWO IAS PROGRAMS RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) has created two voluntary programs, **Building Department Registration and Building Department Accreditation**, to recognize governmental agencies that have demonstrated a commitment to serving the public with organizational excellence. Although building departments may apply for either program, the registration program offers a progressive path, with credit offered, for those choosing to pursue IAS Building Department Accreditation in the future.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION

This program provides building departments with an opportunity to critically assess their administrative, code enforcement and quality management systems with the goal of improving the services they provide to the communities they serve. Through this program, we aim to:

- Improve the performance of local building departments and provide a means for local government and community members to recognize departments' accomplishments.
- Reward excellence by issuing qualifying departments an IAS Certificate of Registration and a listing in the directory of Registered Building Departments on the IAS website.
- Provide departments interested in pursuing IAS Building Department Accreditation with credit for work achieved under the registration program.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

The IAS Building Department Accreditation program provides the most notable form of recognition, confirming that building departments operate under the highest ethical, legal and technical standards and verifying that they have the ability to offer the public enhanced life safety and property protection. This IAS program is based on accreditation criteria AC 251 and involves a comprehensive onsite evaluation of the building department by a team of IAS-trained evaluators, including practicing, peer building officials.



International Accreditation Service

A Subsidiary of the International Code Council

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**INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION SERVICE**
Leading Accreditors Since 1975

IAS BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Registration & Accreditation Programs



About IAS

IAS is a nonprofit accreditation body and a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC). IAS accredits building departments, third-party building department service providers, special inspection agencies, product certification agencies, inspection programs for metal building manufacturers, fabricator inspection programs, testing and calibration laboratories, inspection agencies, training agencies, curriculum developers and field evaluation bodies.

For more information, visit www.iasonline.org, or call IAS at 1-866-427-4422.

THE BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION

- Unbiased evaluation by IAS, an independent body experienced in the operation of building departments, that identifies strengths and weaknesses and provides specific recommendations for improvement.
- Development of strategic plans with steps to measure progress toward achieving the department's goals.
- Migration from informal documentation to empirical based data.
- Tremendous budget-supporter.
- Local and national recognition as an IAS Registered Building Department. The department will receive a listing certificate that is posted on the IAS website and that may also be posted in the department.

Process for Becoming a Registered Department

- The IAS Building Department Registration Program is based on Registration Criteria 418 (RC 418), which provides recommendations on best practices in building department administration. The criteria identify the requirements necessary for building departments to achieve the registration status. Building departments can download RC 418 at no cost from the IAS website.
- The application process begins with the submittal of an application and the applicable fees. See details at www.iasonline.org.
- IAS will provide applicants with the registration checklist to complete and return with related documentation for verification.
- Following the evaluation of documentation, IAS provides the department with recommendations for improvement.
- Successful completion of the basic requirements outlined in IAS RC418 results in a registration listing on the IAS website. It also builds a solid foundation to assist building departments in achieving the ultimate goal of full accreditation.

Transition from Registration to Accreditation

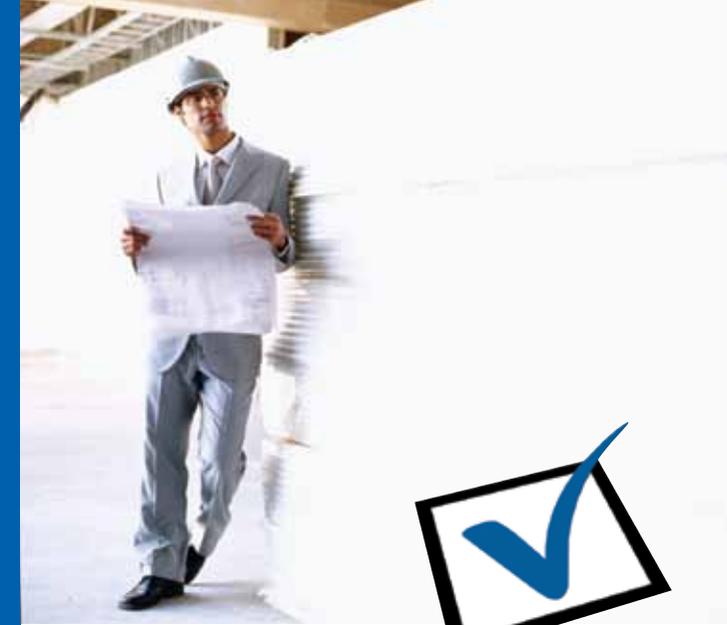
- IAS Building Department Registration (RC 418) familiarizes jurisdictions with the requirements of Building Department Accreditation (AC251) and shows how to properly prepare responses and supporting documentation leading to full accreditation.
- Most of the information garnered from a successfully registered department is applied to the accreditation application and evaluation process. There is no duplication of effort.
- As an additional incentive, registered building departments that apply for accreditation within the three year cycle will receive credit towards their application fee. The pre-evaluation onsite visit is waived.
- For building departments looking to eventually achieve accreditation, the IAS Registration Program provides a tiered approach that is cost effective and that provides numerous benefits to departments seeking to raise their profile in the community while pursuing national recognition as a fully accredited department.
- Building Department Registration is not a requirement for building departments desiring to pursue accreditation.



THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is the standard used by all the world's major economies and many developing nations for recognizing competence. IAS accreditation provides the highest national recognition that code enforcement agencies are professionally qualified to serve their jurisdictions. Benefits recognized by accredited building departments have included:

- Documented proof from a leading accreditation authority that the department uses the best practices in code enforcement and maintains the highest standards offering enhanced life safety and property protection to the public.
- Providing greater value, cost savings and efficiencies to both city operations and permitting customers.
- Implementation of performance and quality control measures along with checklist procedures that have helped the department adapt to organizational changes, new responsibilities and changes in staff responsibilities.
- The ability to maintain peak performance, even during a down economy.
- Accountability and support through peer evaluation process.
- Improved level of professionalism and "partnership mentality" regardless of funding or staffing challenges.
- Accreditation sends a strong statement to your community about your desire to provide services of the highest quality.
- In 2011, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the managing agency of the National Flood Insurance Program, will give Community Rating Systems points to IAS accredited building departments, which can result in insurance premium rate reductions to communities that go beyond the minimum standards for floodplain management.



The Accreditation Process

- The IAS Building Department Accreditation Program is based on Accreditation Criteria 251 (AC 251). The criteria identify the requirements necessary for building departments to achieve the accreditation status. Building departments can download AC 251 at no cost from the IAS website.
- The process begins with submitting the application and fees. Departments previously registered with IAS receive a discount on their accreditation application fee. (See details on www.iasonline.org.)
- IAS will provide applicants with the IAS accreditation checklist to complete and return with related documentation for verification. Building departments that have previously achieved IAS Registration status within the previous three years will receive credit for documentation previously submitted to IAS.
- IAS will conduct an onsite evaluation at the building department and develop an assessment report.
- When the building department has satisfied IAS accreditation requirements and demonstrated proficiency and competence, an accreditation certificate will be issued to the building department and posted on the IAS website, along with a list of all accredited building departments.