

Test Labs Seek IAS Services to Complement Domestic Accreditation

by Raj Nathan



IAS received requests for accreditation from two laboratories in Shanghai and Guangzhou, China, that are involved in the testing of building materials and products. In keeping with the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) policies on cross-frontier accreditation, IAS initially advised the laboratories to consider contacting the Chinese National Accreditation Body, CNAS, for their accreditation needs. (IAS and CNAS are Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) partners through APLAC and ILAC)

In response the laboratories had explained that they had already been accredited by CNAS in different areas of testing; however their corporate management desired to seek accreditation with IAS because of its close ties to the building and construction sector in the United States. IAS reviewed the scope of accreditation requested by the laboratories and put together an assessment team to match the laboratories' testing disciplines.

A week-long assessment was planned and carried out which involved extensive witnessing of test methods and procedures based exclusively on ASTM methods and ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) acceptance criteria as the laboratories had indicated that they were primarily interested in test methods related to compliance with North American building codes and standards.

The IAS assessment team reported that the laboratories were well run and had a highly committed management. The assessors commented that the technical staffs of both laboratories were conversant in English and that they were highly knowledgeable in North American regulatory and standards documents. In addition, the IAS team found the laboratories' access to necessary calibration, testing and measuring equipment to be adequate. The IAS assessment team has forwarded its assessment reports and recommendations to IAS management, and expressed confidence that the Chinese laboratories will achieve IAS accreditation.



Raj Nathan and John Pakianadan meet with representatives of one of the laboratories in China