



GAS.ICB-01:2025

Accreditation Policy for Personnel Inspection Bodies

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0. FOREWORD

This Policy defines the approach of the GAS Accreditation Agency to the accreditation of inspection bodies (hereinafter referred to as “**IBs**”) that carry out inspection, verification, assessment, or determination of the conformity of objects, processes, services, or products.

Accreditation of inspection bodies is granted in accordance with the international standard:

- **ISO/IEC 17020** — Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.

This Policy is aimed at ensuring that inspections performed by accredited bodies are:

- technically sound and reliable;
- impartial and independent;
- transparent for the market and interested parties;
- aligned with international approaches to conformity assessment;
- conducted with due consideration of ESG principles, sustainable development, and responsible impact on the environment and society.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Purpose of the Policy

This Policy establishes the principles, general requirements, and approaches in accordance with which the GAS Accreditation Agency:

- conducts accreditation of inspection bodies;
- carries out surveillance of accredited inspection bodies (IBs);
- makes decisions on the granting, maintenance, extension, reduction, suspension, or withdrawal of accreditation.

The objective is to ensure that accredited inspection bodies demonstrate:

- objectivity and impartiality;
- technical competence and professional integrity;
- transparency and evidence-based inspection processes;
- compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 and GAS documents.

1.2 Scope of Application

This Policy applies to:

- organizations applying for GAS accreditation as inspection bodies;
- bodies maintaining a valid GAS accreditation status;
- personnel and external experts involved in inspection processes;

- GAS individuals and bodies involved in assessment, decision-making, and surveillance.

Accreditation under this Policy covers inspection activities carried out:

- in accordance with **Type A/B/C** as defined in ISO/IEC 17020;
- within voluntary, contractual, or sectoral schemes;
- across various economic sectors (industry, construction, infrastructure, energy, logistics, safety, environment, etc.).

Accreditation does not extend to activities that do not meet the definition of inspection in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020.

1.3 Mandatory Compliance

Compliance with the requirements of this Policy is a condition for:

- obtaining GAS accreditation;
- maintaining a valid accreditation status;
- conducting surveillance and reassessment activities.

Failure to comply with or violation of the requirements of this Policy may constitute grounds for suspension, reduction, or withdrawal of accreditation in accordance with GAS procedures.

2. NORMATIVE AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

This section lists the international and internal documents whose provisions are applied in the accreditation of inspection bodies.

The specified documents are valid as of the date of publication of this Policy. In the event of their revision or replacement, the latest editions shall apply, including all amendments and supplements.

International standards:

- **ISO/IEC 17020** — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
- **ISO/IEC 17011** — Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

Internal GAS documents:

- **GAS.G-01** — Code of Ethics for GAS experts, assessors, and personnel.
- **GAS.G-02** — Policy on the use of GAS accreditation marks and references to accreditation.
- **GAS.G-03** — Policy on conflict of interest and impartiality.
- **GAS.G-04** — Appeals and Complaints Procedure.

- **GAS.G-05** — GAS Sustainable Development and Climate Responsibility Policy.
- **GAS.ICB-02** — Criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies.

This list is not exhaustive. The GAS Accreditation Agency may apply additional standards, guidelines, or internal documents where necessary to ensure a comprehensive assessment of an inspection body's conformity with the requirements established within the scope of its activities.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this Policy are in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020. For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

Inspection body (IB) — an organization that carries out inspection, verification, or conformity assessment of objects in accordance with specified requirements.

Inspection — the examination of an inspection object for the purpose of determining its conformity with established requirements or criteria.

Type A/B/C — categories of inspection bodies according to the degree of their independence as defined in ISO/IEC 17020.

Scope of accreditation — the defined types of inspection, objects, methods, and sectors within which an inspection body is authorized to operate.

4. PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES TO ACCREDITATION

The accreditation of inspection bodies by GAS is based on internationally recognized principles that ensure confidence in accredited bodies and the decisions taken by inspection bodies.

4.1 Impartiality and Independence

GAS ensures that the accreditation of inspection bodies is carried out in compliance with the principles of:

- objectivity;
- absence of conflicts of interest;
- independence of decision-making.

Inspection bodies are required to identify, analyze, and manage risks to impartiality in accordance with their type (A, B, or C).

4.2 Competence and Professional Integrity

Accreditation is based on the assessment of:

- the competence of inspection body personnel;
- the adequacy of technical resources;

- the ability to ensure the reliability of inspection results.

4.3 Transparency and Evidence-Based Approach

All inspection conclusions shall:

- be based on documented evidence;
- be traceable;
- comply with established methods and criteria.

4.4 Confidentiality

GAS and accredited inspection bodies ensure the protection of confidential information obtained during inspection activities in accordance with legal and contractual obligations.

4.5 ESG, Sustainable Development, and Responsible Impact

The accreditation of inspection bodies by GAS is carried out with due consideration of **ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance)** principles and sustainable development.

- minimize the negative environmental impact of their activities;
- apply responsible resource management practices;
- adhere to principles of social responsibility and professional ethics;
- ensure sound corporate governance and accountability.

5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCREDITED INSPECTION BODIES

5.1 Rights of Accredited Inspection Bodies

An inspection body has the right to:

- use the GAS mark in accordance with GAS.G-02;
- refer to its accreditation status within the approved scope;
- receive information on changes in GAS policies and procedures;
- submit appeals and complaints in accordance with GAS.G-04.

5.2 Responsibilities of Accredited Inspection Bodies

An inspection body is obliged to:

- continuously comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 and GAS documents;
- inform GAS of significant changes in its activities;
- maintain personnel competence;
- provide GAS experts access to information and records;
- update information in GAS registers in a timely manner;
- implement GAS decisions based on surveillance results.

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

6.1. This document is part of the normative framework of the Global Accreditation System (GAS) and is mandatory for all inspection bodies seeking to obtain or maintain GAS accreditation.

6.2. Compliance with the requirements is monitored by the GAS Accreditation Agency during initial, surveillance, and reassessment activities.

6.3. The document is reviewed at least once every three years or in the event of changes to international standards or GAS policies.

6.4. The GAS Accreditation Agency is responsible for reviewing, updating, approving, and publishing the current edition of the document.

6.5. The current version of the document is published on the official website: [**gas.international**](http://gas.international).