



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Behlen First Firm in United States to Achieve IAS AC472 Accreditation

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA - Behlen Building Systems became the very first metal building manufacturer in the United States to achieve the International Accreditation Service (IAS) AC472 accreditation in May. This comprehensive accreditation program for the inspection of metal building systems is based on the requirements of Chapter 17 of the *International Building Code*®. Achieving this accreditation is a prerequisite to maintaining continuous registration with the quality standard endorsed by the Board of the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA).

The IAS AC472 Accreditation program replaces the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) category MB certification. Behlen Building Systems, a founding member of the MBMA, has participated in the AISC-MB program for metal building manufacturers since the program was implemented in 1999. The MBMA has chosen the new IAS AC472 standard for which metal building manufacturers must comply as a condition of membership by December 2010.

The IAS AC472 was specifically developed for metal building systems and addresses not only primary framing fabrication but additionally addresses light-gauge welded fabrication, cold-formed fabrication, and the engineering of the metal building system. These are important advantages of the IAS AC472 accreditation for those in the metal building industry such as contractors, architects, code officials, and building owners. Other advantages, which expedite the building approval process, include: compliance with the special inspection requirements in Chapter 17 of the *International Building Code*®; elimination of the need for additional inspections; cost savings to verify code compliance of metal building fabrication; and assurance the metal building manufacturers' staff has a well-qualified quality system in place. This accreditation validates a firm's level of quality and confers credibility due to IAS being a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC). IAS AC472 Accreditation is a major expansion to the existing IAS AC172 standard which only addresses primary framing fabrication and structural welding.

Due to the importance of this being the first IAS AC472 audit to take place in the United States, Behlen proudly hosted Sandi McCracken - Senior Accreditation Officer who leads the IAS Fabricator Inspection Program. Gary Mitchell, P.E. with IAS was also present to conduct the audit. PSI representatives Rod Fruland, P.E., and Chris Bernier were also involved in the audit as the third party inspector required by the accreditation process. In addition, Behlen was honored to host Charles Praeger, Assistant General Manager of the MBMA as an observer to the process.

The two-day audit took place May 12th and 13th at the 875,000 square foot world headquarters of Behlen Mfg. Co. in Columbus, Nebraska. More information regarding the IAS and the AC472 accreditation program can be found at <http://www.iasonline.org/>

The quality system component of IAS AC472 is similar to the ISO 9000 standard but AC472 additionally requires assessment of technical competence and periodic inspection. Behlen has proudly maintained ISO 9000 certification since achieving it in 1999 and is registered with SGS who serves as auditor.

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Behlen Mfg. Co., located in Columbus, Nebraska, was established in 1936 and the company's building business unit produces a wide variety of custom designed metal building systems designed for commercial, industrial, institutional and warehouse buildings along with a complete metal roofing division. More information can be obtained at www.behlenbuildingsystems.com