



## **AC478 Accreditation for Metal Building Assemblers: A standard to recognize Metal Building Assemblers that are committed to excellence.**

The IAS accreditation program for Metal Building Assemblers (AC478) complements an existing IAS accreditation program for Manufacturers of Metal Building Systems (AC472) developed by IAS and the Metal Building Manufacturers Association in 2008. For the first time in history, manufacturers and erectors now have complimentary accreditation programs for metal building projects that will help assure the highest quality commercial buildings.

In 2020, the Metal Building Industry constructed more than 300 million Square Feet of space, almost one third of the Low Rise Non-residential market across the United States. Financially, this represents over \$2.6 Billion in Steel Shipments. 90% of this volume was produced by manufacturers that belong to the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA). The MBMA mandates that member companies achieve and maintain AC472. This accreditation works to establish criteria toward which each firm demonstrates that they have the personnel, organization, experience, knowledge, quality procedures and commitment to fabricate in accordance with specified procedures.

Materials fabricated by these manufacturers are shipped to project sites and assembled by a largely unregulated market of Contractors and Erectors. Until the introduction of AC478, there was no independent source to distinguish quality; to identify those companies committed to safety, training and quality.

*“AC472 + AC478 = A Winning Combination. If accredited manufacturers and their builders team up with these two quality assurance programs it will make our industry more competitive and increase its prominence. This is a commitment to a partnership in quality and a reflection on us all.”*

*Tom Gilligan, Butler Manufacturing*

AC478 assures owners that the erector they have chosen follows a comprehensive quality driven metal building assembly program that is assessed annually. To achieve AC478 accreditation, companies must maintain the following:

- Documented safety program and training program
- Documented management system
- Onsite jobsite assessment
- Job-Site Specific Plans
- Annual Internal Audits and Management Reviews to ensure continuous improvement

The MBCEA recognizes that jobs, typically, go to lowest bid, which doesn't always mean the safest, most qualified contractor. When structures fail or people get hurt during assembly, the entire industry suffers. This accreditation establishes an industry standard to identify those players doing the right thing; that are committed to safety, training and quality.

**The MBCEA recommends building owners and architects require this accreditation (AC478) in their specifications and that building officials look for it before issuing permits.**