

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Inspection Body Scheme for Statutory Pressure Vessels

#### Terminology

AE	Authorised Examiner (Pressure Vessels)
APAC	Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
ASME	The American Society of Mechanical Engineers
BPVC	Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code
FSR	Fabrication Survey Report  <i>Like Inspection Report or Inspection Certificate</i>
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IB	Inspection Body  <i>Like Conformity Assessment Body</i>
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IO	International Organisations such as ILAC, IAF, or APAC  <i>International organisations establish an international arrangement between member accreditation bodies based on peer evaluation and mutual acceptance i.e. ILAC MRA, IAF Multilateral Recognition Agreement, and APAC MRA</i>
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
NAB	National Accreditation Body  <i>Like Accreditation Body or Conformity Assessment Body</i>

#### **1. General**

##### **Q1 Can an IB operate out of the country listed in the NAB's website?**

A: NABs could have existing arrangements with IBs to allow IBs' sub-offices/affiliates in other countries/jurisdictions to perform design verification and fabrication inspections i.e. an NAB can accredit an IB based in one country and its inspector surveys a vessel fabrication in another country. Such IBs include Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company (HSB), Llyod's Register (LR), amongst others. Clarifications on whether such arrangements exist could be obtained through the manufacturer/supplier.

For example, in United States, HSB is accredited by American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), but HSB's inspector is able to conduct a fabrication survey of a vessel based on ASME code in Italy.

**Q2 Does the individual fabrication survey inspector need to be accredited to conduct the fabrication survey?**

A: IBs are accredited based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17020 - "General Requirement for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection". This accreditation includes the definition and documentation of the competence requirements for all personnel involved in inspection activities. Hence, if the IB holds a valid Certificate of Accreditation at the time of inspection, the FSR is acceptable for registration of pressure vessel, and the individual inspector does not require accreditation per se.

**2. Fabrication Survey Report**

**Q1 Is it mandatory to display the NAB or IO logo on the FSR?**

A: While many NABs have such a requirement, there are some NABs which do not, and they only "encourage" their accredited IBs to use the NAB's and IO's logo. This results in variations in report formats.

Notwithstanding this, AEs must verify by ascertaining with the IB (documented) that the NAB is a signatory to the IO MRA and that the IBs are accredited by the said NAB.

**Q2 Can ASME BPVC Data Report Forms – P-Forms (e.g. P-2, P-2A) and U-Forms (e.g. U-1, U-1A) be recognised as a FSR?**

A: Clause 7.4.3 of ISO/IEC17020 states "An inspection body shall issue an inspection certificate that does not include the inspection results only when the inspection body can also produce an inspection report containing the inspection results, and when both the inspection certificate and inspection report are traceable to each other."

Therefore, the IB would need to issue a separate inspection report/certificate which can be taken as the FSR, other than the P-Forms or U-Forms. Since the ASME BPVC Data Report Forms (P-Forms and U-Forms) are issued by the manufacturer, such forms cannot be recognised as FSR for the registration of new pressure vessels.

**Q3 What do we look out for in an Inspection Report or Inspection Certificate for it to be recognised as a FSR?**

A: According to ISO/IEC 17020, any inspection report/certificate shall include all of the following:

- identification of the issuing body;
- unique identification and date of issue;
- date(s) of inspection;
- identification of the item(s) inspected;
- signature or other indication of approval, by authorized personnel;
- a statement of conformity where applicable;
- the inspection results

**3. Certificate of Accreditation**

**Q1 Why is a particular NAB able to use different IO logos on the Certificate of Accreditation issued to an IB?**

A: NABs are permitted to use the logo of an IO only if they are a signatory to that IO's MRA. If an NAB is not a signatory to a specific IO, it is not authorised to use that IO's logo. An NAB that is a signatory to multiple IO MRAs, such as that of ILAC, IAF, or APAC, may choose to use any of the IO logos in the Certificate of Accreditation.

**Q2 If the accreditation date of the IB is more than 10 years ago, is the FSR issued by the IB still acceptable for registration of pressure vessel?**

A: If the survey was conducted within the accredited period of the IB, the FSR is still acceptable for registration of the pressure vessel.

**Q3 If the Certificate of Accreditation only displays the current accreditation period without any records of previous periods, how can we then verify the validity of the FSR if the pressure vessel was manufactured before the current accreditation period.**

A: A request of the applicable Certificate of Accreditation reflecting the accreditation status at the time of inspection can be made from the IB/ manufacturer/ supplier. Some NAB websites will also indicate the past accreditation statuses.

**Q4 If the FSR date falls between the initial accreditation date and issue date of the Certificate of Accreditation, will it be acceptable for registration?**

A: A Certificate of Accreditation could be issued for changes to the accreditation. So long as the inspection date falls within the period which the accreditation of the IB is valid, the FSR can be accepted.

**Q5 Certificates of Accreditation issued by the NAB of Germany, Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle (DAkKS), only show the "valid from date" and "date of issue". How can we check for the validity period or expiry date?**

A: Since end of 2018, DAkKS has started granting accreditation with no expiry, instead of the earlier 5 years validity. Hence, there is no date of expiry on the Certificate of Accreditation.

The status or validity of an existing accredited IB can be verified by entering the registration number D-X-XXXXX-XX-XX into DAkKS' database of accredited IBs ("Search term" field): <https://www.dakks.de/en/accredited-bodies-search.html>

Please find the steps outlined below:

Search term

D-IS-14153-02-07

Conformity assessment activity

all

Location

All locations

Certificate status

All certificate status

**SEARCH** →

By clicking on 'Geltungsbereich | PDF' or 'Scope | PDF', you can review the accreditation scope for which the IB is accredited. If the IB's details, its Certificate of Accreditation and scope are listed in DAkKS' database and the status is "active", the IB has valid accreditation.

STATUS

Active (326) X

**INSPECTION BODY**

**TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH**

— Westendstraße 199, 80686 München, Germany

D-IS-14153-02-07 | Issue date: 07.03.2022

**DETAILS** →

↓ GELTUNGSBEREICH PDF | DE


↓ SCOPE PDF | EN

Should an IB lose its accreditation, DAkKS will indicate the IB's status as "suspended" or "withdrawn".


**Search term**

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
**Conformity assessment activity**

all 

**Location**



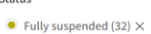


All locations 

**Certificate status**

Fully suspended 

- All certificate status
- Active
- Fully suspended**
- Partially suspended
- Withdrawn

### Examples of IBs with Certificate Status “Suspended”

FILTER		SORTING : Registration number 		1   2 >	
Status	^	Inspection Body			
		SGS-TÜV Saar GmbH Inspektionsstelle für Gashochdruckleitungen — Europaallee 6, 67657 Kaiserslautern, Germany D-IS-12088-05-00   Date of suspension: 01.02.2024	<a href="#">DETAILS →</a>		
Conformity assessment activity	∨				
Category	∨				
Legal basis	∨	Inspection Body			
		Werkstoffprüflabor Dr.-Ing. F. Wiewecke — Crumbacher Straße 54A, 34277 Fuldabrück-Berghausen, Germany D-IS-18454-01-00   Date of suspension: 12.09.2023	<a href="#">DETAILS →</a>		