



## WHO WE ARE?

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is the sole body recognised by government with responsibility for accreditation in accordance with the relevant International Organisation for Standardisation ISO 17000 series of standards and guides and the harmonised EN 45000 series of European standards.

INAB was established in 1985, and is a division of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). The HSA is Ireland's statutory body with responsibility for ensuring that workers and non-workers are protected from work related injury and ill health.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide accreditation to laboratories, certification and inspection bodies. We are the statutory body responsible for GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) and the competent body for EMAS (European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme).

## WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

Accreditation is the formal recognition of a body's competence to conduct a specific activity such as testing, inspection or certification. This recognition is based on compliance with International and European standards. Compliance with these standards requires organisations demonstrate competence, impartiality and integrity. It is often difficult for customers to distinguish between the quality of products or services available on the marketplace. Certificates of conformance or test reports are normally used to make that distinction. These certificates or reports are only useful or reliable if the organisation or individual conducting the assessment or test is competent and qualified. The accreditation of the organisation, for a defined scope, is the mechanism that provides the customer with this confidence.



## THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

The single European Market is of fundamental importance to Ireland, as more than 60% of our total exports are sold to Europe. INAB is part of the European network of accreditation bodies and plays a pivotal role in securing the access of Irish products and services to the EU market.

INAB accreditation ensures that certificates and test results are acceptable worldwide. Accreditation eliminates the need for multiple assessments when goods cross frontiers, giving Irish industry the best competitive advantage possible in what is an ever-expanding and aggressive marketplace.

### Government

Accreditation is the preferred mechanism for ensuring public confidence in the reliability of activities that impact on health, welfare, security and the environment. Accreditation is used, therefore, to identify bodies competent for the implementation of government policies and regulations.

### Consumer

Accreditation gives consumers confidence through ensuring consistently high standards in the quality and safety of products or services purchased.

### Industry

Accreditation is an essential tool for decision making and risk management. Organisations can save time and money by selecting an accredited (and therefore competent) supplier.

Accreditation can provide a competitive advantage and facilitates access to export markets within Europe and beyond - with the aim of "tested or certified once, accepted everywhere".

Accurate measurements and tests carried out in compliance with best practices limit product failure, control manufacturing costs and foster innovation.



### ACCREDITATION SYMBOL

The accreditation symbol is a combination of INAB's logo in association with the accreditation standard and the registration number referring to the organisation's scope of accreditation. The use of the symbol is awarded to INAB accredited organisations once they successfully complete the accreditation process.

**INAB currently has 190 laboratories, 14 certification bodies and 13 inspection bodies accredited.**

## CONTACT US

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