

Code of Conduct for INAB Assessment Visits

PS8

1) Definitions

Conformity Assessment Body:-

A Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) is body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation, for example, laboratory, inspection body, product certification body, management system certification body and personnel certification body (ISO/IEC 17011 refers).

INAB Assessment Team:-

An INAB Assessment team comprises a combination of a lead assessor, technical assessor(s), technical expert(s) and INAB Officer, that performs an assessment of a CAB in order to evaluate the competence of the CAB for a specific scope of accreditation.

2) Policy

*It is INAB policy to consistently provide its client organisations with a professional **and** effective accreditation service.*

In order to deliver this high level of service it is essential that assessment teams display an appropriate level of professionalism, integrity and respect toward the INAB client Conformity Assessment Body at all times during the conduct of each on-site assessment / surveillance / re-assessment.

(i) Assessment Team Members

Assessors are required to adhere to the specific points highlighted in the code of conduct below when carrying out visits to INAB client Conformity Assessment Bodies.

- ▶ Be aware that you are representing INAB and where you require clarification of INAB policy or procedures seek this clarification in private with INAB.
- ▶ Communicate with the organisation staff in a controlled, friendly and professional manner
- ▶ Remain open-minded at all times and remember to both question and listen carefully
- ▶ Present your findings in a calm, factual and tactful manner
- ▶ In the event of a dispute, endeavour to resolve the issue in a calm courteous manner at the visit and always provide factual evidence to support your position. Should satisfactory resolution not be achieved document your findings and explain INAB's right of reply and appeal mechanisms to the client Conformity Assessment Body.
- ▶ Remember that while general non-prescriptive advice may be given to the client Conformity Assessment Body, such advice must not cross the line into consultancy.

- ▶ Pay attention to the time schedule shown on the visit plan and to time-management by ensuring that you focus at all times on the work in hand and that time-wasting techniques are not employed by the Conformity Assessment Body. If it is discovered during the visit that additional time is required to complete the job then this should be provided for in a formal rather than an ad hoc manner.
- ▶ Remember that the purpose of the visit is to assess the competence of the client Conformity Assessment Body to carry out a specific range of activities. The visit must not be used to demonstrate to the Conformity Assessment Body the assessment team's own knowledge
- ▶ Ensure mobile phones are switched off during visits (messages may be checked at lunchtime and after the closing meeting)
- ▶ Ensure there is no planned direct contact with the Conformity Assessment Body at any time other than during the visit without prior approval from INAB. Do not therefore provide the Conformity Assessment Body with your contact details or business card.
- ▶ Ensure that you review responses to non-conformances submitted by the client Conformity Assessment Body in a timely fashion and return completed F121 forms to INAB not later than 15 working days from receipt of responses to non-compliances.
- ▶ Please retain any hard copy documentation submitted by INAB applicant or accredited CABs on your person at all times and if relying on electronic data, forms, etc. please ensure the storage device (laptop, memory stick, other) is appropriately and securely encrypted.

(ii) INAB client Conformity Assessment Bodies

INAB client conformity assessment body personnel are expected to adhere to the specific points highlighted below when undergoing an INAB on-site visit.

- ▶ Communicate with the assessment team members in a calm and professional manner
- ▶ Ensure that requested records or relevant documentation is presented to the team members in a timely manner
- ▶ Ensure that relevant CAB personnel with sufficient authority to accept findings are presented for discussions and confirmation of factual content of any findings presented
- ▶ Where the CAB requires clarification of INAB policy or procedures seek this clarification from the INAB Officer at the time of the visit where possible.
- ▶ In the event of a dispute, endeavour to resolve the issue in a calm courteous manner at the visit and always provide factual evidence to support your position.
- ▶ Should satisfactory resolution not be achieved with the assessment team at the visit ensure that you document a summary of your objections on the AF119 at the visit.
- ▶ Remember that while general non-prescriptive advice may be given to the client Conformity Assessment Body by the assessment team at the visit, the CAB must not use the visit as an opportunity to avail of consultancy.

(iii) Conduct at site visits

- ▶ Conduct at site visits shall be courteous and respectful.
- ▶ In the event that this requirement of good conduct is not observed by one party, the other party will be entitled to discontinue the site visit.
- ▶ Where the visit is discontinued by the assessment team due to the conduct of the CAB, the CAB shall be liable for the full cost of the site visit and any assessments scheduled for that visit.

- ▶ Where the visit is discontinued by representatives of the CAB due to the conduct of the assessors, INAB shall document a summary account of the visit outcome and submit this to INAB Management for consideration.