



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM INAB



INAB would like to wish all our members, assessors, and readers of the INAB Standard a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CALIBRATION TECHNOLOGY LTD

"We've got the ISO Number"

Calibration Technology Ltd (CTL) received INAB Accreditation for their Balance & Volumetric Calibration Laboratory in October 2007.

Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Innovation Policy, presented CTL with their accreditation certificate, and outlined that "Enterprise must continually update and improve its structures, processes and services and one way to do this is to attain the high standards needed to earn accreditation to ISO 17025 level".



Back Row(L-R): Dr Shirley Gallagher, Quality Manager CTL, Michelle Brennan, Calibration Scientist CTL, John Hannan, Calibration Scientist CTL.
Front Row (L-R): Mr Brian Kelly, Managing Director CTL, Michael Ahern T.D. Minister for Innovation Policy, Patrick O'Brien INAB.

SEMINAR ON EMERGING TRENDS IN LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

Sinead Guckian – Accreditation Officer

On October 31st over 100 food safety laboratory professionals came together at a conference, organised by INAB and Safefood, to discuss 'Current and Emerging Trends in Laboratory Accreditation'. A panel of experts presented on the day, including experienced Assessors from INAB and UKAS, and overseas Technical Experts who covered a broad range of topics from accreditation of molecular methods to flexible scopes.



(L-R): Rosemary Hayden, Dublin Public Analyst's Laboratory; Sinead Guckian, INAB; and Graham Pettipher- Reading Scientific Services.

Barbara Hirst from Reading Scientific Services presented a paper on "gaining and maintaining accreditation for molecular methods". Rosemary Hayden from Dublin Public Analyst's Laboratory and Graham Pettipher of Reading Scientific Services spoke of the challenges they encounter in accreditation compliance and outlined the points to be considered as a quality management system matures. Sinead Guckian presented on flexible scopes of accreditation for chemistry testing laboratories and points to consider when applying for a flexible scope of accreditation.

Two parallel sessions were run for the chemists and the microbiologists. Discussion took place on the selection and validation of methods with particular emphasis on the importance of in-house evaluations. Les Coveney, Savant Technologies spoke about measurement of uncertainty. The need for proficiency testing was discussed by Amanda Earnshaw of FAPAS. Bertil Ohlsson of Swedac made a presentation on validation of IT systems, which was of great interest to those who have recently installed, or are considering installing, a LIMS in their laboratory.

Presentations are available from the INAB website www.inab.ie

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EMAS UPDATE

Andrew Stratford – Accreditation Officer



Andrew Stratford represented INAB at the EMAS Awards on 19th November 2007. This year, the subject for the awards was "Waste management: the reduction of the amount of waste produced by EMAS registered organisations".

The National award for Ireland in the large organisations category was awarded to Wyeth Medica, Newbridge.

The EMAS Article 14 committee meeting was held on 20th/21st November 2007. The primary topic of conversation was about revisions to the EMAS regulation, bringing in changes in the following fields:

- Requirements for organisations:
 - Global EMAS
 - Demonstrating Legal compliance
 - Environmental performance report
- Requirements for authorities:
 - Frequency of validation/verification
 - Peer evaluation of Competent Bodies
 - Provision of regulatory information
 - Provision of 'positive' reports
 - Promotion of EMAS
 - Incentives for EMAS
 - Assistance to organisations
 - Taking EMAS into account when drafting new legislation

The above issues were discussed in depth. Following this feedback, the commission intends to have the regulation ready for proposal to the Commission for adoption by February 2008. Depending on submission to (and acceptance by) Council, time taken for translation, etc. the new regulation is likely to be published some time in 2009.

The EMAS Forum of Accreditation Bodies met on 21st/22nd November 2007. The main topic of discussion was the EMAS revision, mentioned above, and also peer reviews of accreditation bodies, and the development of guidelines for verifier time when conducting EMAS verifications.

The EA CC EMS sub-committee met on 23rd November 2007. Primary discussions centred on the implementation of ISO 17021 as they apply to EMS certification, and the introduction of new NACE codes published by the EU. Transfer to the new NACE codes becomes mandatory in January 2008 for any organisations that currently refer to the existing NACE version 1.



EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE

James Stapleton – Accreditation Officer



The 14th meeting of the EA laboratory committee took place in Istanbul on the 2nd and 3rd of October 2007. The meeting was attended by James Stapleton on behalf of INAB.

Work on the drafting of ISO 17043 for proficiency testing providers is continuing. The first official draft is expected in 2008.

A working group for medical laboratories has proposed that ISO 17025 is the most appropriate standard for laboratories involved in testing for veterinary purposes.

The issue of deviating samples was discussed. A summary of activities in this area has been produced and will be published in the EA newsletter. It emphasises that deviating samples can play an important role in many fields: environment, food, medicine, agriculture etc.

A change of name from Euromet to Euramet was noted. Euramet is recognised as the regional metrology organisation for Europe. The National Metrology Laboratory is a member.

There have been some developments in the area of emissions monitoring with the publication of the technical standards CEN/TS 15675, CEN/TS 15674 and the standard EN 15259. The technical committee has stressed these standards should be used in conjunction with ISO 17025 for the accreditation of laboratories operating in this area.

A fully revised edition of ISO 15189 is expected in 2010. It is anticipated that Annex B of the current standard will become a requirement part of the standard.

ILAC CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY



INAB would like to congratulate ILAC on its 30th Anniversary. ILAC is the international cooperation of laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary. One of the primary aims of ILAC is the removal of technical barriers to trade.

INAB is one of the 58 signatories, representing 46 economies signed up to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement, enhancing the acceptance of products and services across national borders.

INAB ASSESSOR PROFILE

CHRIS NASH



Mr Chris Nash

How long have you been an INAB Assessor?

Initially, I started assessing laboratories for UKAS, in 1995, after completion of the UKAS Assessor Training Course, at Warwick University and, in 1998, I performed my first laboratory assessment for INAB.

What significant changes have you seen in development of laboratory accreditation?

The most significant change has been the introduction of the ISO/IEC17025 Standards, in 2000 and 2005. As an assessor, I found these to be a major improvement on the previous accreditation standards, primarily because there is always an ISO17025 clause which very closely addresses the issues which have arisen.

In your opinion, what aspects of Accreditation are most beneficial to laboratories?

My approach to assessing is that my role is to help laboratories to improve their management system and maintain the quality of the results produced. It can be difficult for laboratory staff to identify opportunities for improvement, particularly when there is pressure to produce the results. Sometimes, being very familiar with routine procedures can make it more difficult to see an alternative way of working.

It must be stressed that INAB assessors are not present to provide a consultancy service, but problems can often be more readily resolved when there is interaction with someone "outside the box".

What do you enjoy about assessing?

I enjoy the technical aspects of laboratory assessment and, I guess that it's sometimes obvious that I would love to be allowed to run some of the new instruments which I see in laboratories. However, for me, the main enjoyment is in meeting people and seeing them perform the tests with commitment and enthusiasm. I appreciate that, no matter what I might say to lighten the situation, those being witnessed often feel that they are under pressure to perform well. The reality is that the primary aim is to assess the management system, rather than individuals, but the only way that systems can be properly assessed is to observe them in use.

What advice would you have for organisations considering applying for Accreditation?

- (i) Remember that, for every activity, you need the following components:
- A Policy, to state what you are going to do,
 - A Procedure, to say how you are going to do it and
 - Records, which confirm that you did what you said you would do, exactly the way you said you would do it!

If those three elements are in place, you have a sound basis for accreditation.

- (ii) Try to get all staff involved in the development of the management system. It shouldn't be just a management tool.
- (iii) Don't overlook the sample registration and sample preparation activities. If those aspects are not right, the analysis could be a waste of everyone's time.
- (iv) DON'T PANIC! It can be a steep learning curve, but the assessment team is not looking for ways to stop your laboratory gaining accreditation. Our objective is to confirm that you meet the requirements of the standard and relevant INAB regulations.

What advice for preparing for a Surveillance visit?

Ideally, don't prepare! Human nature is such that you will inevitably want to check everything before the visit, but remember that your management system is intended for the benefit of your laboratory, not for INAB's benefit, nor to impress the assessor. As you would like the system to be operating when INAB knocks on your door, is how it should operate throughout the year. When your laboratory reaches that status, everything you need to maintain accreditation will be second nature.

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2007

182T	Monaghan Veterinary Laboratory Clones Road, Monaghan <i>Biology Testing Laboratory</i>
183T	Bodycote Consultus Ltd Glanmire Industrial Estate, Glanmire, Co. Cork <i>Microbiology and Chemical Testing Laboratory</i>
9006	Cork Institute of Technology (CTC) Clean Technology Centre, Unit 1, Melbourne Business Park, Model Farm Road, Cork <i>AIC Verifier for Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds</i>
9007	AD Analytical 8 Terenure Road North, Dublin 6w <i>AIC Verifier for Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds</i>
184T	Neptune Laboratory Services Ltd Oldenway Business Park, Ballybrit, Co. Galway <i>Biological Testing Laboratory</i>
185T	Enva Ireland Ltd., T/A Foodtech Consultants Rocklawn, West Village, Ballincollig, Cork <i>Microbiological Testing Laboratory</i>
186C	Calibration Technology Ltd Innovation Works, National Technology Park, Co. Limerick <i>Balance & Volumetric Calibration Laboratory</i>

ISO15189: 2007 2nd Edition

Marie O'Mahony – Accreditation Officer

The standard was revised to align it with ISO17025:2005 2nd Edition. The main changes are as follows:

Clause 4.1.6 "Laboratory management shall ensure that appropriate communication processes are established within the laboratory and that communication takes place regarding the effectiveness of the quality management system" has been added. (This clause is in ISO 17025:2005.)

Annex A cross-reference table has been updated to align it with ISO17025:2005.

There will be a 2 year transition period to ISO 15189:2007 from date of publication (15th April 2007).

INAB does not envisage laboratories having any difficulties implementing the minor change (implementation of Clause 4.1.6) into their management systems.

In order to ensure that all laboratories have been verified as complying with ISO 15189 2nd edition by April 2009, INAB will commence assessing laboratories to the new standard from January 2008.

INAB looks forward to working with you to ensure a smooth transition to ISO 15189:2007 2nd Edition.

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