



INAB ISO 17021 TRANSITION SEMINAR

Brid Burke - Accreditation Officer

On the 1st May 2007, INAB held an information session on the new standard ISO/IEC 17021:2006, which replaces ISO Guides 62 and 66, for its accredited and applicant Certification Bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.

The main aim of the session was to promote a common understanding of the requirements of ISO 17021 to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to the new standard by 15th September 2008.

The technical presentation was given by Phil Shaw. Phil is a development manager with UKAS, he completes training courses on ISO 17021 within the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and has over 20 years experience in Certification Body assessments.

The presentations concentrated on the main changes between ISO 17021 and ISO Guides 62 and 66.

Not all changes were covered; however Certification Bodies will assess all changes as part of their plan to modify their systems to the new standard in the coming months.

Milestone dates agreed at the information session were as follows:

2007

31st May	INAB Receipt of Certification body transition plan
30th June	INAB Receipt of Certification body gap analysis
1st Sept	INAB will begin to assess CBs to ISO 17021 (this includes extensions to scope)

2008

30th April	All INAB CBs will have had full re-assessment to ISO 17021
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INAB would like to thank all attendees for their time and participation in this successful event.

MINISTER CULLEN PRESENTS GEOTESTING LTD ACCREDITATION AWARD



David Tutty, from GeoTesting Ltd, receiving accreditation certificate from Minister Cullen.

ANECTO SCORE AT CROKE PARK STADIUM

Pat O'Brien, INAB, presented Anecto Ltd with their Accreditation Certificate at Croke Park, during the Medinireland event on 17th April 2007.



(L-R) Liam Maher, CTO, Anecto; Frank Cashman, MD, Anecto; Pat O'Brien, Accreditation Officer, INAB; Eleanor Randah and Brian O'Neill, Enterprise Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE

James Stapleton - Accreditation Officer



The 13th meeting of the EA laboratory committee took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia on the 8th - 9th of March 2007. The meeting was attended by James Stapleton on behalf of INAB.

Work is continuing on the plan to run regional inter-laboratory comparisons (ILCs) for calibration labs. The need for regional ILCs is recognised as necessary for several reasons including: shortage of suitable schemes in small countries; to support the multilateral agreements by ensuring consistency; possible use to address concerns if they exist; areas where verification of the chain of traceability is required.

A report was presented regarding the issue of scopes of accreditation for medical laboratories.

The standard ISO 15189 is under going revision in order to align it with ISO 17025. A new draft is awaited and once the final version is published there will be a two year transition period.

A presentation was given by a representative of the European Commission on quality assurance under the Water Framework Directive. A draft of the commission decision implementing Directive 2000/60/EC concerning minimum performance criteria for analytical methods used for chemical monitoring and the quality of analytical results was discussed. This draft document contains a requirement for member states to ensure the laboratories appointed for carrying out monitoring under Article 8 and Annex V of Directive 2000/60/EC are accredited by a competent authority by 22nd December 2012.

ISO 15189 UPDATE

The 2nd edition of the medical laboratory standard ISO 15189 has been published. Information on the transition to the new standard will be relayed to our members in June. In the meantime if you have any queries do not hesitate to contact your Accreditation Officer.



EA MAC COMMITTEE

Marie O'Mahony - Accreditation Officer

Marie O'Mahony and Adrienne Duff represented INAB at the EA MAC (Multilateral recognition Agreement Committee) meeting in Prague on the 28th-29th March 2007. This Committee is responsible for the management of the EA peer evaluation process of EA Accreditation Bodies.

Peer re-evaluation reports on nine existing Accreditation Body MLA signatories and 1 pre-evaluation report of an applicant Accreditation Body were considered by the Committee. Progress reports from a further 5 Accreditation Bodies were discussed, and 2 new applications for membership were reviewed.

Three task force groups of the Committee also presented their reports dealing with issues relating to EA Cross Frontier Policy, frequency of surveillance activities of accredited CABs (conformity assessment bodies) and Scopes in the EA MLA. The next meeting has been scheduled for 27th-28th September 2007.

EA CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Adrienne Duff - Accreditation Officer

The EA Certification Committee meeting was held in Gothenburg, Sweden on 27th-28th February 2007. Adrienne Duff and Brid Burke attended on behalf of INAB. The EA Certification Committee comprises of members from the EA Accreditation Bodies and stakeholders representing Certification Body interests.

The Committee considered reports and updates from the EA Executive, IAF and IAF Technical Committees.

The recent changes to IAF and EA guidance documents were reviewed and discussed, as were changes to international standards, such as ISO 17021.

New publications are imminent and these include ISO 22003, EA-7/04 on legal compliance and ISO 14065 for Greenhouse Gas Verifiers.

The EA Certification Committee has established several task forces and sub-committees working on matters such as food certification, EMS and ISMS issues, multi-site auditing, Greenhouse Gas accreditation and integrated management system auditing. Each group meets regularly and reports to the EA CC at its twice-yearly meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11th-12th September 2007 in Vienna.

Andrew Stratford - Accreditation Officer

An informal meeting of EMAS competent bodies took place in Brussels on Friday 27th April, to exchange views on the future of the EMAS regulation.

The EMAS regulation is to be revised, with the goal of making it more user-friendly and less burdensome; basically making EMAS registration a more attractive proposition to organisations that wish to improve their environmental performance, and wish to make this information publicly available.

There were a number of topics for discussion, concerning potential revisions to the regulation. Among these were:

Legal compliance – making it a requirement that an organisation's compliance with environmental legislation would be checked in with the National enforcement body in advance of registration.

Environmental performance – listing specific key performance indicators/sector specific indicators in the regulation, identifying how these indicators would be measured and reported.

EMAS Global – exploring the possibility of offering EMAS registration to organisations outside of the EU.

Reduction of administrative burden – exploring financial, fiscal or market-related incentives for EMAS registered companies.

Harmonisation – ensuring consistency of approach of accreditation, verification and registration procedures across all countries.

Promotion – EMAS promotion by Member States and by the Commission.

Logo – use of the EMAS logo and environmental report as more attractive communication and marketing tools for participating organisations.

Readability – re-structuring of the text of the regulation to make it easier to follow.

For further details, please contact andrew.stratford@inab.ie



Tom Dempsey, Manager of INAB attended the Reagecon Diagnostics Ltd Seminar, at which they were presented their Accreditation Certificate for Balance and Volumetric Calibration Laboratory. (L-R) Colin Ashton, Technical Services Division, Reagecon; Tom Dempsey, Manager, INAB; and Leo Geary, Technical Services Division, Reagecon.

INAB CLIENT WORKSHOPS

Orla Doyle - Project Executive

INAB will hold two 1-day workshops. The focus for each day is to cover the main findings from the INAB Accreditation Process Survey from 2006. The agenda will include presentations on developments within INAB and the accreditation process.

Invitations and an agenda will be sent to all members soon – please indicate the location you wish to attend and attendees from your organisation to orla.doyle@inab.ie on or before August 10th 2007.

CORK WORKSHOP

Date September 5th 2007

Location Jurys Hotel, Western Road, Cork

DUBLIN WORKSHOP

Date September 11th 2007

Location INAB Offices, Wilton Theatre, Dublin

Places limited to two persons per organisation.

For further information, please contact orla.doyle@inab.ie



CENTRAL MEAT CONTROL LABORATORY – presented their accreditation award by Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB, for their Chemical and Biological Laboratory

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2007

- 182T **Monaghan Veterinary Laboratory**
Clones Road, Monaghan
Biology Testing Laboratory
- 183T **Bodycote Consultus Ltd**
Glanmire Industrial Estate, Glanmire, Co. Cork
Microbiology and Chemical Testing Laboratory
- 9006 **Cork Institute of Technology (CTC)**
Clean Technology Centre, Unit 1, Melbourne Business Park, Model Farm Road, Cork
AIC Verifier for Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds

INAB ISSUES NEW DOCUMENTATION

Andrew Stratford – Accreditation Officer

Due to transition to ISO 17021 (Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems), INAB has issued a new policy statement, PS16, which clarifies requirements in the new standard for a formal approach to development of certification schemes.

Policy statement PS10a has also been issued, which details requirements for documentation to be submitted to INAB in advance of certification body assessment/witnessed activity visits.

In order to keep a better historical record of witnessed activities, two forms have been created; one for management system certification and one for product & personnel certification and inspection. These are simply matrices that identify the year, the person witnessed, and the EA sector/technical standard involved.

Further information can be obtained from your Accreditation Officer.



EDENDERRY POWER OPERATIONS LTD – presented their award of accreditation by Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB Board, for their Testing Laboratory.



INAB STAFF NEWS – NEW FACE

Katerina Asprou – Administration



INAB POINTS OF CONTACT

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Inspection Body Accreditation

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Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

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