



# Accreditation

Delivering a Safer World



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# Who is Responsible for Accreditation in Ireland?

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.

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





### ▶ **What do INAB 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, production of reference materials or certification. This recognition is based on compliance with International and European standards. Compliance with these standards requires organisations to demonstrate competence, impartiality and integrity. It is often difficult for customers to distinguish between the quality of products or services available on the Market place. 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.



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## Our Accredited Bodies Contributing to a Safer World

INAB have over 220 accredited clients covering a wide spectrum of industry, we have clients that contribute to safe transport, safe building materials, safe food, safe water, safe products and safe packaging.

Overleaf is a small sample of some of our accredited clients, and how they contribute to a safer world. For further information on all our clients click into our [Directory of Accredited clients](#). INAB recommend using an accredited service to assure that you are receiving a competent and reliable service.

“Our clients have been through a rigorous accreditation process to demonstrate that they are competent and capable to test, inspect, or certify to the highest standard”

Adrienne Duff,  
Manager of INAB





### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – Registration Number 146T**

The State Laboratory, the Government's principal analytical chemistry laboratory, contributes to a safer world by testing samples which could potentially cause harm to the consumer, e.g. contaminants in food or counterfeit pharmaceuticals

The Laboratory carries out a wide variety of analysis on animal feeding stuffs and foods, to monitor compliance with EU regulations, aimed at ensuring the safety of the food supply, as the presence of unauthorised substances, residues of veterinary medicinal products or chemical contaminants in food may pose a risk to public health. For example, samples of food and feed are analysed for undesirable substances such as Mycotoxins and Dioxins, and samples taken from slaughtered animals and food of animal origin intended for human consumption are tested for the presence of banned or controlled substances such as hormones or medications.

The State Laboratory also analyses pharmaceutical and herbal products, seized by the Health Products Regulatory Authority, for the presence of pharmaceutically active compounds. Medicines purchased online may not be genuine, may not contain the correct active ingredient or may even contain dangerous toxic substances, potentially putting the consumer of such unlicensed medicines at risk.

Our accreditation helps us deliver this, as national and international acceptance of results of analysis requires laboratories to have third party peer accreditation of its methods of analysis. In many cases, EU regulations require that the testing laboratory holds accreditation for the test methods used for official testing of food and feed.





### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – Registration Number 007T**

In recent years, the adverse effects of inadequate soil management have been well documented. Environmental contamination can be caused through leaching of excess fertilisers and run-off. Not only can this lead to poor grass and crop growth, but can also cause serious damage to the environment and put livestock at risk.

In Dairygold Feed Laboratory we conduct accredited soil testing of pH, phosphorus and potassium levels, among other tests. These results are then used in conjunction with specialist nutrient management software to provide support and advice to the farmer. This will help them understand and best utilise their soil results.

By having these accredited soil results to form part of a Nutrient Management Plan, organic and chemical fertilisers can be targeted and applied only to soils that need it. This in turn will prevent nutrient loss to the environment, both through the prevention of over application and the eventual reduced usage of fertilisers once optimum soil levels are reached. This also aids in helping to conserve energy and therefore cuts down on the contribution to the carbon footprint.

Overall through thousands of accredited soil tests and the subsequent nutrient management based on these results, we are helping to support and improve the sustainability performance of our customer's farms and ultimately helping to make the environment safer for all.



### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – Registration Number 175T**

Our ISO 17025 accreditation provides us with the ability to offer accredited testing in excess of 40 standards as defined by CEN, EN, ISO, ISTA and MIL standard bodies. This allows us to facilitate independent testing for various sectors such as: medical device, motor transport, food, beverage and cosmetic industries throughout Europe.

In the packaging sector we evaluate the performance of the packaging which conceals medical components such as heart valves, stents and catheters by simulating various environmental conditions. Our accreditation provides confidence to our clients of our ability to validate their packaging that will have a direct impact on the end user in terms of sterility.

In the transportation sector we have carried out testing on a wide range of customer product such as: cameras, reversing sensors, electrical components as well as safety equipment. Our accredited testing ranges from vibration, drop, altitude, incline, max force, accelerated ageing to name a few. The service we offer to the transportation sector ensures the stability of products during their distribution and storage within various environmental conditions.

Our ISO 17025 accreditation allows us to connect, collaborate and build relationships with over 80% of the world's top 20 Medical Technology companies. Our accreditation enables us to offer a wide range of services that support companies in their efforts to increase product reliability and reduce the risk of failure throughout the product lifecycle.





### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – Registration Number 256C**

As an accredited laboratory, Butler Technologies provides a very wide range of calibration services which play a key role in delivering a safer world.

We calibrate instruments which our customers use to maintain the safety of our national infrastructure. Our electrical capabilities are used to calibrate the various types of tester which ensure the safe generation and distribution of power countrywide – high voltage insulation testers, RCD and loop impedance meters, HIPOT testers etc. Our accreditation also supports the installation and maintenance of communications, radar and instrument landing systems at our airports. Similarly, we provide key services which underpin the safety of our national road and rail networks.

Our laboratory helps business in meeting its obligations under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 – in particular, by calibrating the portable appliance testers (PAT) which are used to check that electrical products used in the workplace do not pose a safety risk.

Butler Technologies supports the safe delivery of products and services in various industry sectors. For example, in the medical devices sector we calibrate instruments to ensure the electrical safety of products (to IEC 60601, 62353 or 61010 as appropriate)

which are used to treat hospital patients. In the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors, we offer thermometry and temperature mapping capabilities for fridges, freezers, incubators and ovens which provide for the safe storage and processing of medicines, blood and biological samples; our pressure accreditation facilitates the calibration of gauges, manometers, transducers and calibrators.

**Automotive Market: “We awarded Butler Technologies the contract to manage all our calibration requirements for the last 3 years. We found Butler Technologies to be most professional and efficient from the time that they arrive on-site to the completion of the contract. We continue to work with Butler Technologies and they supply us with the expertise we need to make the right calibration decisions”.**

Stephen Douglas, Valeo Vision Systems

**Aerospace Market: “We have worked with Butler Technologies for the last 10 years for our calibration needs. They cover 4 different sites in Ireland for the IAA. Our requirements are from standard equipment to critical pieces of equipment to be calibrated due to the nature of our business. We found Butler Technologies have a complete understanding of the equipment being calibrated and showed that they are an expert in this field”.**

Tony Gubbins, Irish Aviation Authority



### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – Registration Number 323T**

**Accredited spray dryer emission testing is an essential support to one of Ireland's most important industries which ensures the environmental safety of the agricultural land from which the dairy powders are generated. Teagasc provide a fully accredited service to the Irish industry for monitoring emissions.**

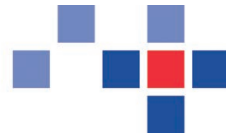
Spray drying is widely used in the Irish dairy industry as a means of removing water from dairy streams and thereby increasing shelf-life.

As such, spray drying underpins the Irish agri-food industry by allowing manufacturers to reach international markets which would otherwise be closed to perishable liquid products.

In 2016, approximately 117,000 tonnes of skim milk powder was produced; it is also estimated that Irish produced infant formula accounts for 10% of the global market. As part of the drying process, hot air is used to remove moisture from the dairy streams, after which, the air is treated to remove entrained milk powder particles before it is vented to the environment.

It is therefore important from an environmental and economical perspective to ensure that companies are venting the correct volumes of air which contain allowable concentrations of residual milk powder particles.

The management systems in place ensure the quality of field measurements, laboratory analysis and integrity of results. The continual auditing and assessment by technical experts which form part of the yearly accreditation schedule also allow us to keep up to date with the latest technical guidelines and adhere to the latest requirements.



### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 – Registration Number 043C**

Mason Technology is a Sales and Service company that deals with many sectors, including the Pharmaceutical/ Biotechnology fields. We provide accredited calibration under ISO 17025 for Weighing, Temperature, Mass, Thermometers, Centrifuges and Humidity Meters. During our 230+ years the company has seen the movement towards the mandatory use of accredited laboratories to perform critical calibration work.

The use of accredited laboratories assists our customers in achieving high quality, safe products as required in the development of their Pharmaceutical Monographs (i.e. recipes). One of the most important factors in the control of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API's) is complete, accurate and traceable documentation which assists our customers in achieving their key goals of quality, safe product.

Through our high standard of internal auditing, training programmes and documentation control we can provide support to our customers and confidence in the safety of service provided. The equipment used for these calibrations is closely controlled and contributes to the safety, quality and efficacy of the customer's product.

The international recognition provided by our accreditation under the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) means that our certificates can withstand the most robust of audits and investigations both from the national/ international regulatory bodies, health and safety authorities worldwide and during customer audits.

Using accredited laboratories means that our customers can be confident in the service we provide, resulting in a reduction in cost impact and fewer issues. Via the accredited service we can offer our customer's confidence and a safe-guarded approach to Quality Assurance.



### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17065- Registration Number 6008**

Many aspects of organic farming contribute to a safer world generally. Whether it is the cautious use of antibiotics on our livestock or the requirement to test water that is used to irrigate crops that are likely to be eaten raw, all of these principles that find their roots in organic farming help us make the world a safer place for our consumers.

Accreditation to ISO 17065 has assisted us by giving us an independent and fair critique of how we are performing our duties and the way the accreditation is delivered encourages constant improvement within the organization in setting goals to improve the quality and effectiveness of our certification service. This culture of encouraging improvement through the certification system is now an integral part of our approach with our clients and this in turn contributes greatly to a safer world for everyone involved in producing and consuming organic food.

**“The Organic Trust always provides a very professional and very competent service and I feel it is a significant benefit to see that their efforts are independently verified by an organisation such as INAB”.**

**Julie Calder-Potts, Highbank Organic Orchards**

**“It is a comfort for ordinary business people to be able to have the reassurance to know that the organisation to which your livelihood largely depends upon is being independently audited for important matters such as confidentiality, freedom from conflicts of interest and so forth.”** Patrick Lalor, Ballard Organic Products Ltd T/A Kilbeggan Organic Foods





### **Accredited to ISO/IEC 17025- Reg no 263T**

Bemis Laboratory Services provide accredited testing services that ensure that medical devices being placed on the market

- ▶ are Sterile
- ▶ that the packaging is capable of protecting the functionality of the device during transport around the world
- ▶ that the device is still working as expected for the shelf life that is indicated on the package.

With this testing being ISO 17025 accredited, our customers (the Medical Device Manufacturers) have confidence that the test results are reliable and they use these results in their regulatory submissions for CE Mark and US Food and Drug Administration approval.

Our customers will only work with test house facilities that are accredited as this means that our methods, people, equipment and systems are scrutinized frequently by INAB to maintain the high standards expected.

Bemis Laboratory Services work with a large range of customers who are developing and upgrading devices used for a large range of applications, among these are:

- ▶ Precision flow-control valves
- ▶ Stents
- ▶ Drainage products

Bemis Laboratory Services also work with customers that are developing new materials for the treatment of burns and diabetic wounds; and investigating the effects of processes such as sterilisation on materials and devices.

Bemis Laboratory Services test and compare materials for a range of parameters to provide the best protection and sterility of the enclosed product. Through analytical testing, we can assist in the identification of contaminants and also to identify differences between batches of materials.

For further information on all our clients click into our [Directory of Accredited clients.](#)







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## Contact Us

IRISH NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD  
Metropolitan Building  
James Joyce Street  
Dublin 1, Ireland

Phone: 1890 289 389

Int Tel: +353 1 614 7000

Email: [inab@inab.ie](mailto:inab@inab.ie)

[www.inab.ie](http://www.inab.ie)