

HIGH STANDARDS "SECURED"

Bon Secours Health Systems Ltd became the first ISO/IEC 15189 Accredited Laboratory in Ireland. Mary Harney presents Bon Secours with their INAB accreditation Certificate on 9th May, 2005 in Cork.



(From Left to Right): Pictured at the presentation: Ann Mulcair; Mary Kelly; Janet Sharkey; Seamus O'Brien; Kae Dowling; Mary Harney TD, Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children; Andrew Kenny; Dr. Olive Murphy; Mark Collins; Laurel Watts; and Dave Keane.

GREENHOUSE GASES – INAB UPDATE

Brid Burke - INAB Officer

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) has been appointed by the Environmental Protection Agency as the accreditation body to accredit verifiers for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Trading Directive in Ireland.



INAB has received a number of applications from GHG verification bodies interested in becoming accredited in Ireland for this scheme. The accreditation process began with some verifiers in March 2005 and is progressing to pilot site verification in July 2005.

This pilot site verification will involve INAB witnessing the activities of the applicant verifiers in a real life situation and assessing their competence based on this. The performance of the verifiers during this activity, together with the documentation assessments that have been completed, will provide the necessary information INAB needs to decide if accreditation should be awarded.

Verification bodies wishing to work in Ireland from other EU member states will need to be accredited to EN45011 and the associated guidance documents. If a verifier is accredited by an EA member other than INAB, the verifier should contact INAB or the EPA before completing work here in Ireland to ensure knowledge of Ireland's interpretation of the directive and monitoring and reporting guidance notes. For further information on the scheme log onto: www.inab.ie/schemes

NEW EDITION of ISO/IEC 17025

The second edition of ISO/IEC 17025 was published in May 2005.

ILAC have allowed laboratories a 2 year transition period from date of publication to meet the requirements of the new standard and INAB have contacted all applicant and accredited laboratories detailing their implementation programme.

From November 2005, INAB will assess all new applicants to ISO 17025:2005 only.

The purpose of the new edition is to clarify that meeting the requirements of ISO 17025 does not automatically mean that all the requirements of ISO 9001: 2000 ("Quality Management systems – requirements") are also met.

The amendments in the second edition relate mainly to the management requirements in the document to reflect the content of ISO 9001:2000, especially the responsibilities of top management, the need to demonstrate a commitment to continually improve the effectiveness of the management system, customer satisfaction, and internal and customer communication.

The changes to the technical requirements are minimal and relate to continual improvement, specifically in clauses 5.2.2 and 5.9.

It can be concluded that laboratories that already have described and controlled their processes within the laboratory – as already required in the current ISO/IEC 17025, will have only to implement readjustments in terms of management requirements.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the laboratory to familiarize itself with the new standard and implement the changes necessary to comply with ISO 17025:2005.

For full details on the amendments please refer to www.ilac.org.

Any queries should be referred to your INAB Officer.

INAB LAUNCH NEW CLIENT CONTRACT

INAB launched their new contract and terms and conditions to all accredited and applicant organisations in June.

Arising from the reformulation of the R1 Regulations into a Terms and Conditions format INAB will be holding a Seminar for all Accredited Organisation to answer any queries that may arise.

This seminar will take place on **Wednesday, 28th September 2005** at the offices of INAB. The seminar will start at 11:00hrs and finish at 15:00hrs. A more detailed agenda for the day will be sent nearer the time. Please confirm attendance at the Seminar by email to orla.doyle@inab.ie by 26th August at the latest.

COMPETITION – NAME THAT NEWSLETTER!!

INAB's newsletter has been without a name since its first edition in 1998. However we'd like you, the readers, to help us change that. Best entry submitted will win €100 voucher and will be announced in the next issue. All suggestions should be sent to orla.doyle@inab.ie

EPTIS DATABASE

Patrick O'Brien, INAB Officer

In recent years both laboratories and accreditation bodies have increasingly realised the importance of proficiency tests.

They are an excellent tool to demonstrate and assess the performance of laboratories with regard to specific measurement, testing, and analytical tasks. Proficiency tests can support accreditation procedures and participation by applicant and accredited laboratories and/or inspection bodies is a condition of INAB accreditation. INAB policy on participation is outlined in INAB Policy Statement (PS1) on "Proficiency Testing" (PT).

Participation in proficiency tests was hampered not only by the restricted offer of suitable proficiency testing schemes in many testing areas but also by the lack of information on their availability.

However, a network was established under the auspices of the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and the European laboratory organisations; Eurachem and Eurolab.

The network surveyed the availability of PT schemes and their characteristics within their respective countries. This was entered into a database which was made public on the internet in the year 2000. The network, website and database were called EPTIS for European PT Information System.

Today, the EPTIS database contains more than 800 PT schemes from Europe and the Americas. These schemes are operated in various fields of testing, though metrological and clinical schemes are not yet included systematically.

Details are included for most PT schemes to indicate which requirements of ISO Guide 43-1 have been met. The PT information on EPTIS is based on self-declarations of the PT providers. It should be noted that the EPTIS national coordinators and / or secretariat only perform a first plausibility check before they include the information supplied to them in the database or on the website. Therefore the EPTIS consortium does not assume any responsibility for the data supplied.

As new schemes are continuously being added to the EPTIS database including new fields and parameters, accredited laboratories and inspection bodies should review their participation in PT schemes on an annual basis.

For further information:
E-mail: eptis@bam.de
Website: www.eptis.bam.de

DOUBLE THE STANDARDS

CLAYMON Laboratories are the first clinical laboratory to hold both the ISO 17025 and ISO 15189 accreditation standards.

Mary Harney presents Claymon Laboratories their award of ISO 15189 medical testing accreditation at the Berkley Court Hotel in Dublin.



Pictured at the presentation (from L to R) Eamonn Madden, Managing Director of Claymon being awarded the INAB 15189 Certificate, Mary Harney, Minister for Health and Children, and Dr. Fiona Kenny, Consultant Microbiologist and Board Member of INAB.

IAF CROSS FRONTIER POLICY

Brid Burke, INAB Officer

A number of INAB accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) offer INAB accredited certificates in the US, Asia and a number of European Countries, other than Ireland. This represents a growing trend seen with Certification Bodies worldwide in that their operations are not confined to the country in which their Head Office is located.

In order to ensure Accreditation Bodies monitor the activities of their accredited Certification Bodies in other countries, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) issued 'Guidance on Cross Frontier Accreditation' in 2004. (Document number IAF GD 3:2003, available from the website www.iaf.nu).

PS7, INAB's policy on issuing INAB accredited certificates outside Ireland, details how INAB has implemented this IAF policy. The document is available from the publications section on the INAB website, www.inab.ie/schemes/publications.

PS7 requires INAB's applicant and accredited CBs to declare to INAB any country they are issuing INAB accredited certificates, details of the certificates issued and if there are any offices/critical locations in countries other than Ireland. With this information INAB then plans its assessment/surveillance activities, taking locations other than Ireland into account.

When completing these assessment/surveillance activities in locations other than Ireland, INAB co-operates with the local accreditation body, where possible. This ensures the assessment of the CB is completed in conjunction with a body that has language competencies, knowledge of applicable legal requirements and local culture. It also reduces costs for all concerned when operating in this way.

This policy has been effective from 2004 and involves many of the accredited Certification Bodies at this point.

DEVIATING SAMPLES – ISO 17025

Pat O'Brien – INAB Officer

There is a real need for laboratories to pay particular attention to dealing with deviating samples. It was found that some samples delivered to the laboratory for analysis that were clearly identified as deviating samples (e.g. samples not sampled properly or maintained in a stable environment prior to testing) were reported to their clients not in accordance with the accreditation standard ISO 17025.

Recently the Dutch Federation of Accredited Laboratories in co-operation with RvA (Raad Voor Accreditation) distributed samples for analysis to 32 laboratories both commercial and semi-government. The test samples circulated were clearly identified as deviated samples.

The findings of this survey were presented by RvA to the European Accreditation Laboratory Committee (EA LC). Of the 32 laboratories, 16 laboratories were accredited for the tests undertaken. 7 of the 32 laboratories contacted the client about the deviating sample and none included a clear disclaimer in their reports, on 2 occasions only a vague statement was included.

While no such survey has been undertaken in Ireland, there is a real need for laboratories to pay particular attention to dealing with deviating samples. Accredited laboratories are reminded of the requirements contained in the accreditation standard ISO 17025 and their commitment to maintaining the accreditation standard:

Clause 5.8.3	Recording of deviating samples upon receipt and subsequent consultation with the client.
Clause 5.7.2	Deviation of a documented sampling procedure (e.g. pre-conservation) on request of the client shall be recorded and reported.
Clause 5.10.1	Results of tests shall be reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously and objectively.

BRC – IOP FOOD PACKAGING STANDARD

Catherine McEnri – INAB Officer

The BRC (British Retail Consortium) which is the trade association representing the retail trade in the UK and the IOP (Institute of Packaging), the professional membership body for the packaging industry have worked in partnership to develop the BRC/IOP Global Standard – Food Packaging and other Packaging Materials.

The standard was developed for companies manufacturing and supplying food packaging materials for retailer branded products in the fulfilment of their legal obligations. The standard was introduced to help in the protection of the consumer by providing a common basis for the evaluation of companies supplying packaging for food products to retailers. This standard is a logical extension to the already well established BRC Global Standard – Food for which INAB has already accredited two Certification Bodies.

NSAI is the first Irish Certification Body to achieve accreditation to EN 45011 by INAB on 9th May 2005 for the BRC/IOP Packaging Standard for four of the product categories, namely; Paper & Board, Plastics, Metal and Glass.

INTERVIEW WITH IAIN MACLEAN – INAB Board Member



Iain Maclean

Iain, you have served on the INAB Board for 10 years, what significant changes have you seen in the development of Accreditation?

The most significant change in accreditation over my ten years on the board is that it has expanded well beyond its original base in the field of laboratory management. Accreditation is increasingly involved in the area of certification, where for example the certification of product quality is increasingly used as a marketing tool.

What aspects of Accreditation do you think are beneficial for organisations?

The major benefit of accreditation for an organisation is that it provides a clear, transparent confirmation of adherence to a set standard. Such a system raises standards of management and promotes the confidence of the public. Under such a system, an organisation can develop its management systems and be confident that the system will be followed. It is a question on ensuring that "things are done once but they are done right"

Where do you see Accreditation growing in the future?

I believe that accreditation is likely to grow most rapidly in the areas of certification, whether it is certification of management systems or of product quality. In the current world more certainty is expected concerning many aspect of quality. Such certainty may be sought to promote the sale of a product as the best available or more pragmatically to provide a credible defence in case of litigation. I believe also that verification of results increasingly will become required in the area of environmental protection. This is currently required under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading system, but I expect that it will be extended to include all the larger emissions from potentially polluting industry.

At a European level, accreditation is increasingly seen as a method of avoiding the need for unduly restrictive legislation. Public confidence in any system or product can be assured through the use of accreditation and certification as both provide an external and transparent method of checking the system or product.

What advice do you have to an organisation considering applying for Accreditation?

In the case of organisations seeking accreditation, I would advise a careful assessment of the advantages that accreditation will provide. The reasons for seeking accreditation may be that it has effectively become mandatory for the organisation or that it is seen as providing a marketing advantage.

Whatever the reason, commitment to achieving accreditation must be given by the highest levels of management. Without such commitment accreditation will inevitably fail.

The company should contact INAB at an early stage to discuss the requirements of accreditation and thus to avoid any unnecessary work.



ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2005

- 043C **Mason Technology Ltd**
Greenville Hall, 228 South Circular Rd, Dublin 8
Heat & Temperature Calibration Laboratory
- 159T **Claymon Laboratories Ltd**
Three Rock Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18
Medical Testing Laboratory
- 160T **Drogheda Concentrate**
Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Chemical Testing Laboratory
- 161C **Metrology Systems & Services**
Coolagown, Fermoy, Co. Cork
Mass Calibration Laboratory - Metrology
- 162T **GeoTesting Ltd**
21 Link Business Park, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare
Construction Materials Testing Laboratory
- 163T **McAllister Devereaux Keating Ltd**
Carrigtwohill Business Centre, Carrigtwohill, Co Cork
Chemical Testing (Asbestos) Laboratory
- 164T **Isotron Ireland Ltd**
IDA Business & Technology Park, Tullamore, Co Offaly
Microbiology Testing Laboratory
- 165T **Roadstone Dublin Ltd.**
Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Construction Materials Testing Laboratory
- 5007 **Business Quality Assurance International Ltd.**
Woodvale House, Clarinbridge, Co Galway
QMS Certification Body

Download schedule of accreditations for 2005 at:

www.inab.ie/news/2005-recent

LABORATORY NETWORK

Adrienne Duff - INAB Officer

The Laboratory Network, established in March 2003, held an information forum at the State Laboratory, Backweston on 1st June 2005.

The Network Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Ray Leonard, invited INAB to speak on recent developments in laboratory accreditation.

Adrienne Duff attended on behalf of INAB and presented to approximately 60 delegates from the laboratory community on topics such as the recent revisions to ISO 17025: 2005, the impending peer evaluation of INAB scheduled for Spring 2006, and updates on internal developments at INAB which will impact on laboratories in the INAB accreditation programme.

INAB welcome any opportunity to communicate with applicant and accredited organisations and obtain feedback and would like to thank the Laboratory Network for the invitation to attend the recent forum.

For further information on the Laboratory Network, please contact Professor Ray Leonard at Ray.Leonard@ie.henkel.com

INAB STAFF NEWS - NEW FACE

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EMAIL CHANGES

Please note that all default email addresses to INAB staff end with inab.ie. Emails sent to nab.ie are no longer accepted.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Orla Doyle - Project Executive

INAB are delighted to announce the launch of a new Newsletter section on the website. Download the latest and previous editions of our newsletter in PDF format. INAB distribute the printed newsletter three times a year, if you would like to subscribe to receive the latest version, log onto: www.inab.ie/news/newsletter or email orla.doyle@inab.ie

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