

INAB APPOINTED TO ACCREDIT VERIFIERS FOR THE GHG EMISSIONS TRADING DIRECTIVE IN IRELAND

The member states of the European Union (EU) are signatories to the Kyoto Protocol, which requires reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases by specific amounts over a period from 2008 to 2012 and beyond. The EU committed to an average reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 8% below 1990 levels. The EU Emissions Trading Directive (Directive 2003/87/EC) is being implemented to achieve this target.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been given the responsibility for implementing the Emissions Trading Directive in Ireland by Government. The Directive establishes an allowance-trading scheme for emissions to promote reductions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide.



Each EU member state must submit a national allocation plan (NAP) to the EU commission. This plan details allowances of Carbon Dioxide for each affected operator in any particular country. The Irish national allocation plan, which has been accepted by the EU Commission, is available from the EPA website, www.epa.ie

The GHG directive stipulates that emissions from each operator detailed in the national allocation plan, are examined on a yearly basis by an independent verifier. Once this has been completed, the operator must submit the results of this verification to the competent authority in each EU member state. (In Ireland the competent authority is the EPA).

Most EU member states require independent verifiers to be accredited and as a result the Irish National Accreditation board (INAB) has been appointed by the EPA as the accreditation body to accredit verifiers for the Greenhouse Gas 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 assessment process with some of these verifiers began in March. As it is a totally new scheme for all concerned, it is likely this process will take a number of months to complete.

The assessment process will determine the verifier's compliance with EN45011 and associated guidance documents EA 6/01 and EA 6/03. The process will also include witnessing verifications in a number of permit holders' sites to assess the competence of the verification body in a real-life situation.

Verification bodies wishing to work in Ireland from other EU member states will need to:

- be accredited to EN45011 and associated guidance documents EA 6/01 and EA 6/03.
- be accredited by INAB or another EA member accreditation body.

More information available from <http://www.european-accreditation.org/>

If a verifier is accredited by an EA member other than INAB, the verifier should contact INAB or the EPA before starting work here in Ireland to ensure knowledge of Ireland's interpretation of the directive and monitoring and reporting guidance notes. For 2005 INAB will witness at least one verification of each verifier, accredited by another EA member accreditation body, working in Ireland. This is to prevent any issues arising with verification reports March 2006.

For further information on this scheme please contact Brid Burke, brid.burke@inab.ie

THE HIGHWAY TO ACCREDITATION

Mary Harney TD, Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children presents Highway Testing Ltd with its INAB Accreditation Certificate for its construction materials testing laboratory on 8th October 2004 at the IEI Conference.



Pictured at the presentation were (From L to R) – Pat O'Brien, INAB, Paddy Caffrey, IEI President; Mary Harney TD, Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children; Dr Kieran Feighan, Managing Director Highway Testing; Brian Mulry, Associate Director Highway Testing; and Paul Kelly, Director Building Materials Federation IBEC.

INTERVIEW WITH AN ASSESSOR – Johanna Andersson, Sweden



Johanna Andersson

In the time you have worked with INAB what significant changes have you seen in the Accreditation of Laboratories?

Accreditation of medical laboratories is just getting underway in Ireland. This is an exciting process and I hope that experience from Scandinavia and other European countries can be of benefit. INAB has established an expert group for the effective implementation of ISO 15189 in the Irish laboratories.

What aspects of Accreditation do you think are most beneficial to the laboratories?

The benefits of accreditation are many. Some of the most important ones include:

- the laboratory staff obtains clearer picture of the internal organization of the laboratory
- good general order and routines are established, documented and maintained
- traceability is established
- a focus is put on competence and continued education
- the patient is put in focus and the role that the laboratory plays in the healthcare process becomes clearer

What is your current role? What does this bring to your role as a laboratory assessor and how does working as a laboratory assessor benefit you when working in your own job?

I am currently a laboratory director in a hospital complex (2 larger hospitals and 3 smaller ones) in western Sweden. Clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology and transfusion medicine are all part of our organization. In my work as an assessor, I use my knowledge and experience in laboratory medicine, as well as my administrative experience. I believe that assessors' visits to a laboratory must provide added value for the laboratory. I find that working as an assessor definitely benefits my own organization. I try to bring back as many good ideas and solutions used by others as I can.

What do you enjoy about assessing? Do you see similarities with the Swedish System?

I enjoy meeting new people and discussing laboratory medicine with them. I am always fascinated by the fact that there are so many good solutions to the same problem! As an assessor you have a chance to watch an organisation grow – from a pre-assessment visit with all the worries people have to a mature organization where quality is really an integrated part of the day-to-day work. Many of the hospital laboratories in Sweden have been accredited for a good number of years. The process of accreditation in Sweden is much the same as in Ireland and follows the international standards – ISO 17 025 and/or ISO 15 189.

Where do you see Laboratory accreditation in the future?

Laboratory accreditation has a great future. Accreditation improves the quality of work being done. It is important, however, that we as assessors continuously work with the laboratories towards development and improvement and are not satisfied with simply reviewing current procedures.

Any tips for our laboratories who are thinking about applying? What are the pitfalls etc that they should look out for?

Laboratories considering accreditation should contact and visit other accredited laboratories – benchmark to find good examples. Reading the standard is a good beginning, but the requirements need "translation" which can be gained from contacts with INAB and other laboratories. A pre-assessment visit is to be recommended. And – don't underestimate the time and effort needed to get the job done!

THE BOARD OF INAB

INAB's Board is an independent Board of Forfás established under Section 10 of the Industrial Development Act 1993 as amended, and in summary is charged with the responsibility of determining whether or not an applicant organisation attains accreditation by assessing whether it meets necessary requisite standards. The composition of the Board is representative of the activities in which INAB operates.

The Board which represents State, industry and consumer interests is composed of not more than 12 members who are appointed by the Forfás Board. The following is the current membership of the Board of INAB:

DR MÁIRE WALSH

Chairperson
Former State Chemist and Head of the State Laboratory, Abbotstown

MR IAIN MACLEAN

Former Director of the EPA

MR DONAL CONNELL

Former Vice President, 3Com Ireland

MR TOM BEEGAN

CEO, Health & Safety Authority

DR FIONA KENNY

Consultant Microbiologist, HSE

MR PAUL KELLY

Director, Building Materials Federation, IBEC

MR RICHARD HOWELL

Inspector, Dept. of Agriculture and Food

MR MICHAEL MALONEY

Horticulture Director, Bord Bia

MR JOHN O'BRIEN

CEO, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

MS JOANIE BURNS

Dept. of Environment, Heritage

MR TOM DEMPSEY

Manager INAB, Ex Officio Member

MR PAT O'MAHONY

CEO, The Irish Medicines Board

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

It is with great pleasure we announce the recent appointment of Richard Howell, Joanie Burns and John O'Brien to the INAB Board.



Richard Howell
Dept of Agriculture and Food

Joanie Burns
Dept of Environment, Heritage & Local

John O'Brien
CEO, Food Safety Authority

EA MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PEER EVALUATION PROCESS

The INAB's co-operation with other accreditation bodies in Europe and globally through Multilateral Agreements (MLAs) means that Irish accredited organisations are recognised both nationally and internationally, providing organisations and their customers with confidence in the product or service being offered.

The Multilateral Agreement Committee (MAC) within EA manages and coordinates the MLA process and membership arrangements.

This Committee has a representative from each full member of the EA MLA, an observer from EAAB (The Advisory Board that is composed of stakeholders of users of the services provided by Accreditation Bodies) and the chairperson of each of the four EA Committees. The EU Commission also has an observer serving on this Committee.

One of the key roles of the EA MAC is to manage the peer evaluation of Accreditation Bodies and to decide on the initial membership of applicant Accreditation Bodies and the continued membership of signatory Accreditation Bodies.

INAB initially became a member of the EA MLAs for testing and calibration laboratories in 1995 following the EA Evaluation and has successfully completed a further two re-evaluations during which INAB achieved membership for the EA MLAs for Quality management systems, and recently for the Environmental management systems and product certification systems accreditation (highlighted in the "Tested Once, Accepted Everywhere" article opposite).

INAB is due its next EA Peer re-evaluation in Feb 2006. This re-evaluation process will involve a week long assessment of INAB systems and its accreditation activities by a 6 person international Peer review team, comprising experts in calibration, testing and medical testing laboratory accreditation, certification body, inspection body (QMS, EMS, and product) accreditation. As part of the evaluation a thorough review of INAB's Quality systems and procedures will be examined in a Headquarters audit and will also include witnessing of INAB assessment teams in operation on-site.

A full report will be presented to the EA MAC for decision following INAB's clearance of any issues raised during the evaluation.

During 2005 INAB will be carrying out a full review of its systems and will transfer to the recently introduced activated ISO 17011 in preparation for the evaluation.

INAB ASSESSORS FROM IRELAND, UK AND SWEDEN ATTEND THE FIRST INAB ASSESSOR WORKSHOPS

On the 20th and 25th January 2005, INAB hosted its first Assessor Workshops. The primary objective of the workshop was to exchange information with the assessors, to harmonise the accreditation process and highlight aspects of the accreditation process for continual improvement. The workshops were highly successful and very positive feedback from more than 40 INAB assessors who attended the workshops was received.



Tom Dempsey, Manager, INAB opens the Assessor Workshops



Participants at the INAB Assessor Forum, Tues 25th January, 2005



Participants at the INAB Assessor Forum, Thurs 20th Jan, 2005

TESTED ONCE, ACCEPTED EVERYWHERE

In October 2004, INAB signed two Multilateral Agreements (MLA's) with the worldwide umbrella organisation, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), for cross-border recognition of EMS and Product Certification.

The aim of the signatories to the Multilateral Agreements is to achieve global accreditation structures and world-wide mutual acceptance of accreditation - "certified or tested once, accepted everywhere".

The significance of the MLA's, is that it deems the signatories equivalent and ensures the acceptance of the certificates issued by certifiers accredited by any of the MLA signatories. Therefore, any EMS or Product certifier accredited by INAB or any other signatory will be accepted by any other country party to this agreement.

INAB currently lists 1 accredited environmental systems verifier and 3 accredited product certifiers which will benefit from these Multilateral Agreements.

MLA Signatories	Certification of EMS	Product Certification
Austria	✓	✓
Australia and New Zealand	✓	✓
Belgium	✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓
China	✓	
Czech Republic	✓	✓
Denmark	✓	✓
Finland	✓	✓
France	✓	✓
Germany	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	
Ireland	✓	✓
Italy	✓	✓
Japan	✓	
Mexico	✓	✓
Netherlands	✓	✓
Norway	✓	✓
Republic of Korea	✓	✓
Romania		✓
Slovakia	✓	✓
South Africa	✓	✓
Spain	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓
Switzerland	✓	✓
Taiwan	✓	
Thailand	✓	
United Kingdom	✓	✓
United States	✓	

IAF's first newsletter now available online:
<http://www.compad.com.au/cms/iaf/public/201>

NEW ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED

- 159MT **Claymon Laboratories Ltd**
Three Rock Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18
Medical Testing Laboratory
- 160T **Drogheda Concentrates**
Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Chemical Testing Laboratory
- 161C **Metrology Systems & Services**
Coolagown, Fermoy, Co. Cork
Mass Calibration Laboratory - Metrology
- 156C **Transtest Equipment Ltd**
Unit G14 Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Heat & Temperature Calibration Laboratory
- 157T **Advanced Micro Services Ltd**
Unit 36 Kinsale Road Commercial Centre, Kinsale Road, Cork
Microbiological Testing Laboratory
- 158T **Marine Environment & Food Safety Services**
Galway Technology Park, Parkmoore Industrial Estate, Galway
Aquatic Biology Testing Laboratory
- 9003 **BOC Gases Ireland Ltd**
Bluebell Industrial Estate, Dublin 12
Cylinder Pressure Testing & Inspection

EXTENSIONS TO SCOPE in Heat and Temperature Calibration

INAB has seen a noticeable increase in accreditation activity in the area of Heat and Temperature Calibration. In particular, **AGB Scientific Ltd** which was recently awarded an extension to its scope of accreditation (Reg. No 056C) for the calibration of Digital thermometers with probes used in temperature control enclosures.

Transtest Equipment Ltd was also awarded accreditation (Reg. No. 166C) for the calibration of base metal and Metallic resistance thermocouples, Semi-conductor thermometers and Digital temperature indicator systems, including the calibration of Indicators and Recorders and Controllers by electrical simulation.

FIRST ACCREDITATION FOR EUREPGAP

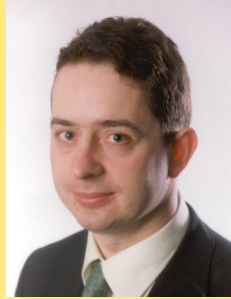
EurepGAP is an initiative of retailers belonging to the Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group (EUREP) and was set up by the desire to reassure consumers following food safety scares such as BSE (mad cow disease), pesticide concerns and the rapid introduction of GM foods. It has evolved into an equal partnership of agricultural producers and their retail customers. Its mission is to develop widely accepted standards and procedures for the global certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Representatives from around the globe and all stages of the food chain have been involved in the development of these standards and the views from stakeholders outside the industry including consumer and environmental organisations and governments were also sought.

NSAI is the first Irish Certification Body to achieve accreditation to EN45011 by INAB, at its meeting on 29 Nov 2004, for one of the EurepGAP's protocols specifically EUREPGAP – General Regulations, Fruit & Vegetables.

INAB STAFF NEWS – NEW FACES

JAMES STAPLETON

ANDREW STRATFORD



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The E.P.A. Castlebar laboratory carries out testing on behalf of the E.P.A. and on behalf of local authorities in Counties Galway, Mayo and Sligo for groundwater monitoring and work for the Licensing and Control Division of the Agency. The principal functions of the laboratory are the monitoring of rivers, estuaries, lakes, groundwater, drinking water, effluents (industrial and municipal), and landfill sampling.

The Castlebar laboratory was awarded accreditation to ISO 17025 under Reg No.145T.



(From Left to Right): Mr Larry Stapleton, Director of EPA, Ms Laura Burke, Director of the EPA, Mr Pat The Cope Gallagher, Minister of State, Dept of Environment, Dr Michael Flanagan, Regional Manager, EPA Castlebar, Dr Padraic Larkin, Director of EPA