



INAB HOLD ITS 4TH ASSESSOR FORUM

The forum took place at INAB offices in Dublin on 20 January 2012. The forum is held every 2 years, and aims to harmonise the accreditation process and provide an opportunity for INAB assessors to liaise with other assessors and the INAB Executive.

37 assessors from Ireland, UK, Netherlands, Germany and Sweden attended the forum. In welcoming assessors to the forum, Adrienne Duff, Manager of INAB acknowledged their professional contribution in delivering a respected INAB accreditation service in particular, since the last forum, INAB had a successful outcome to the EA peer evaluation in 2010.



The agenda for the day included presentations from the INAB Executive covering items on the role of the assessment team, developing national and international policy, assessor code of conduct and the INAB client feedback systems.

Improvements in the accreditation process which INAB intend to introduce were also discussed and feedback sought from the assessor panel. INAB will continue to work on these developments and roll them out over the coming months.

“Overall I found the forum beneficial and will help to refocus my work for INAB”

INAB Assessor

Phil Endersby, a UKAS and INAB calibration assessor presented on the key principles and policies on calibration and traceability.

For the afternoon session, the group broke into technical groups aligned to the accreditation standards and, based on preparatory assessor surveys items discussed included INAB policies on submission of documentation, flexible scopes, scope assessment during an accreditation cycle and other issues relevant to each accreditation standard.

“It was very good to be able to put forward items for discussion in advance of the meeting and to meet all of the INAB staff on the day”

INAB Assessor

All assessors were asked to complete an online survey following their attendance at the forum – feedback was positive and some good suggestions proposed for our next forum in 2014.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW INAB – 2011

Activity Statement 2011	
Accreditations awarded	16
Extensions to scope awarded by Board	12
Extensions awarded by INAB Manager	62
Accreditation maintained	187
On-site visits as part of accreditation process	298
Resignations	10
Removals	2
International meetings attended (EA)	18

Standard	INAB Accredited Organisations 2012
ISO 17025 – Testing	88
ISO 17025 – Calibration	20
ISO 17024	1
ISO Guide 65/(EN 45011)	7
ISO 17021	5
ISO 15189	58
ISO 17020	8

*table includes accreditations up to April 2012.

In addition to accreditation functions, INAB is also the national Monitoring Authority for the OECD Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) scheme. In 2011, INAB was subject to an OECD assessment to evaluate implementation of this statutory programme.

Quick Facts

- 130 assessors and technical experts are contracted to INAB to provide competent assessment teams.
- The INAB Board makes decisions on the award and permanent removal of accreditation.
- INAB Board met 6 times and awarded 28 accreditations in 2011.
- INAB Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) met 3 times in 2011.

New standard revisions will be introduced in 2012 (ISO 14065 (verification), ISO 17020 (inspection), ISO 17021 (management systems)) and into 2013 with ISO 17065 (product certification) and ISO 17024 (personnel certification).

For 2012, INAB will continue to respond to client demands and in particular, new areas of activity are expected in the fields of medical testing, food certification and environmental testing/monitoring.

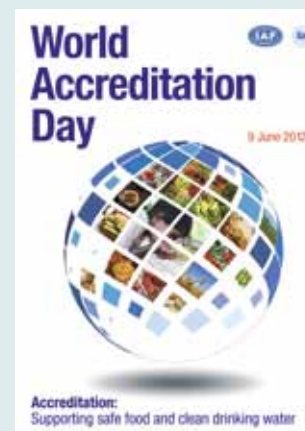
WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY – 9TH JUNE 2012

World Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) was established to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities.

This year's theme focuses on the role that accreditation plays in supporting the provision of safe food and clean drinking water.

INAB like all other national accreditation bodies will participate in promoting World Accreditation day to clients, government and regulators.

Included with the newsletter is the **World Accreditation Day Brochure** issued by ILAC and IAF.



For further details on the day – log onto www.inab.ie

GLOBAL TRUST EXTEND SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

In February 2012, the INAB Board awarded Global TRUST Certification Ltd extension of its scope of accreditation to include their FAO-based responsible fisheries management certification scheme, derived from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

Global TRUST Certification Ltd (GTC) has been accredited by INAB since February 2001 for product certification activities. Their scope of accreditation covers a wide range of fish certification schemes, developed by GTC on behalf of Bord Iascaigh Mhara/Irish Sea Fisheries Board. More recently, GTC extended their scope to include certification against requirements of GLOBAL G.A.P. aquaculture standards and the Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practice seafood processing standard.



(L-R) Peter Marshall, GTC; Andrew Stratford, INAB Accreditation Officer; Bill Paterson, GTC.

2ND EDITION OF ISO 17020 STANDARD

In March 2012, ISO/IEC 17020 2nd Edition, "Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection" was published.

The second edition replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 17020:1998) and has been technically revised.

INAB will prepare a transition plan in consultation with EA and ILAC which will be circulated to all applicant and accredited inspection bodies and assessors.

FIRST ACCREDITATION FOR OHSAS 18001 – E.Q.A. IRELAND LTD



(L-R) Eamon Clinton, Technical Manager, EQA;
Eileen Golligly, Scheme Administrator, EQA; Christine Daly, Scheme Manager, EQA;
Andrew Stratford, INAB Accreditation Officer, INAB;
David Daly, Chief Executive, EQA; Caroline Bolger, Assistant Scheme Administrator, EQA.

INAB has granted the first accreditation for OHSAS 18001 to E.Q.A. (Ireland) Ltd.

E.Q.A.'s scope of accreditation was extended to include certification of occupational health and safety management systems against the requirements of OHSAS 18001:2007 at the INAB Board in February 2012.

E.Q.A. have been accredited by INAB since 2001 for management systems certification; initially for certification of quality management systems to ISO 9001, extended to certification of environmental management systems to ISO 14001 in 2009.

OHSAS 18001 defines requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, to enable an organization to control its OH&S risks and improve its OH&S performance. Although developed to be compatible with the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards, it is not an ISO standard; it was developed by the International OHSAS Project Group, comprising standards bodies, certification bodies and other interested parties worldwide. It has been adopted by NSAI, and published by NSAI as S.R. OHSAS 18001:2007.

As a management system standard, it comes under ISO 17021 when being assessed for accreditation purposes.

INAB CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY 2012

INAB is dedicated to improving its processes and responding to clients in a timely manner. INAB launched a survey of its clients to gain feedback on the process and for the assessment team on 15th March. Clients were asked to provide feedback on their experience of the accreditation process over the last 12 months. The survey closed on 15th April 2012.



INAB Accreditation Process - Client Survey 2012

1. GENERAL

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses should be based on your experience with INAB over the last 2 years. Individual responses will not be disclosed and all results will be combined to reveal overall results.

1. How many years have you been a client of INAB?

- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years

2. Which standard(s) have you been accredited / applied for? Tick all that apply

- ISO 15189 - Medical Testing
- ISO 17025 - Testing

Summary results from the survey will be circulated to all clients. Please note that individual responses will not be disclosed and all individual responses will be combined to reveal overall trends.

INAB would like to thank the 120 organisations that took the time to complete the survey.

ACCREDITATION FOR MEDLAB PATHOLOGY LTD IN CERVICAL CYTOLOGY TESTING

MedLab Pathology Ltd (MLP) was awarded accreditation for its cervical cytopathology testing activities on 6th December 2011 by the INAB Board. MedLab Pathology is located in Sandyford, Dublin 18.

The laboratory provides a full cervical cytopathology testing service to General Practitioners, clinics and hospitals. It also performs analytical testing services for the national cervical cancer screening programme (NCSS).

MLP was established in May 2010 as Sonic Healthcare's Irish laboratory facility. Sonic Healthcare is a global clinical diagnostic organisation.



(L-R) Sinead Kinsella, Laboratory Manager, MLP; Tom Dempsey, INAB Board Member;
Denise Doyle, Quality Assurance Manager, MLP; Eamonn Madden, CEO, MLP.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Feedback provides INAB with the opportunity to learn and improve our processes. We value all feedback and recognise the importance of clients/assessors being able to feedback into the INAB system and processes.

INAB is committed to providing a professional service to its clients and assessors.



How can you provide feedback?

• Client feedback form

This is available on www.inab.ie and can be found in the "Contact Us" section. INAB welcomes feedback through this system from clients and assessors.

The client feedback form caters for improvements, suggestions and any feedback you may have relating to INAB policy, assessment visits, or any aspect of the accreditation process.

Forms should be returned to inab@inab.ie – and will be reviewed for action by the Quality Team.

• INAB policy for handling complaints

Complaints made to INAB shall be addressed in writing to the Manager of INAB. The policy for handling complaints is available on www.inab.ie and can be accessed in the "About Accreditation" section.

Complaints about our Accredited Bodies should be directed to the accredited body in the first instance.

• Surveys

INAB will continue to undertake surveys for feedback. In recent months INAB has carried out a survey for feedback on the assessor forum from participants; a satisfaction survey will be carried out in 2012 of our clients based on their experience of the INAB Accreditation Process. (see pg 2).

• General queries

All general queries can be directed to our email address inab@inab.ie.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IAF – International Accreditation Forum and ILAC – International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation have introduced electronic newsletters to provide information, news and a global perspective on accreditation.

More than forty countries throughout the world are signatories to the Multilateral Agreements of IAF and ILAC, including Ireland, USA, Canada, Japan, China, India, South Africa, Australia and UK. The aim is to achieve global accreditation structures and worldwide mutual acceptance of accreditation.

The newsletters are issued twice a year. To subscribe for the newsletters logon:

ILAC www.ilac.org/ilac_news.html

IAF www.iaf.nu/articles/Subscribe_IAF_Newsletter/35

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2012

- **Gynae-Screen Ltd, Dublin 8**
Medical Testing
- **Hanley Calibration Services Ltd, Co. Cork**
Balance Calibration Laboratory
- **Oldcastle Laboratories Ltd, Co. Meath**
Biological & Veterinary Testing Laboratory
- 50 extensions to scope for existing clients were awarded by INAB Manager and Board in 2012

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