



WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY: DELIVERING CONFIDENCE IN THE PROVISION OF ENERGY



World Accreditation Day is on 9th June 2014. This day will focus on the role that accreditation plays in providing confidence in the provision of energy. Energy provision encompasses attempts to meet the needs of the world's current population without negatively impacting future generations.

For full details on World Accreditation Day, INAB have included the 2014 Brochure with this newsletter.

Energy is an often overlooked necessity for daily tasks and activities. Society has grown heavily dependent on the convenience and luxury that is obtained through the harnessing of energy. Additionally, the number of households and businesses using energy will continue to increase as the world becomes more industrialised.

Providing Confidence in Energy Provision

As the demand for energy grows, methods for harnessing, storing and sharing energy need to be enhanced. There is immense pressure put upon all responsible parties to implement these methods instantaneously. However, it is in the best interest of the majority to verify that these methodologies are safe. Regulators are tasked with the efficient provision of energy as well as ensuring the safety of their end users. **This is accomplished in part by requiring accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies.**

Specifically, laboratories are used to identify performance of devices used in the harnessing and periodically in the dispersal and monitoring of both traditional and renewable energies. Laboratory testing is also fundamental to the proving of new technologies such as tidal and wind (or solar) energy. Safety inspections are carried out on a range of energy-related installations, from coal-fired power stations to nuclear installations to wind farms. Energy suppliers are certified to demonstrate that their processes and procedures are appropriate, and to declare their environmental credentials. In turn,

certification to ISO 50001 can help businesses improve energy-related performance and identify energy reduction opportunities.

Accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies ultimately provides assurance to consumers and business. Through the standardization and regulatory process, coupled with accreditation, consumers and businesses are assured that they are purchasing a quality product that is safe, can be utilized for its intended purpose, and meets energy efficiency goals.

World Accreditation Day

9 June 2014



How do we do this effectively? How do we know what is right and what is wrong?

Testing, inspection and certification are ways to ensure that a clear line is drawn between the methodologies and activities that are right and wrong with respect to energy provision.

Accreditation of the organisations that are performing these tasks ensures a consistent and reliable approach, which will in turn result in an industry that is conducive to the needs of the consumer and the environment.

Reducing Barriers to Trade

Laboratories, inspection bodies and certifiers who maintain accreditation from ILAC and/or IAF Arrangement Signatories benefit from thoroughly vetted accreditation processes. As signatories to

these arrangements, the accreditation bodies deem each other equivalent. Trade barriers are reduced through the efforts and activities of these arrangements because there is confidence created in the end product.

The results of testing, inspections and certifications produce both consumer and regulatory confidence in products moving between markets.

Because of the stated and verified equivalency, it allows manufacturers to test a product once, rather than multiple times, in the process of seeking regulatory approvals and moving it across borders.

Celebration and promotion of World Accreditation Day will take place in over 90 countries to raise awareness of the value that accreditation plays in providing confidence in the provision of energy.

INAB EA PEER REVIEW UPDATE

During the week of the 7th-11th April 2014, an EA (European Co-operation for Accreditation) Peer Review Team arrived at the INAB offices to review and evaluate INAB Accreditation activities.

INAB welcomed an eight person team – almost the same number of evaluators as the entire staff complement of INAB.

EA Peer Review Process

The team spent their time thoroughly evaluating our files, processes, procedures, policy and records against ISO 17011 and Regulation 765/2008.

The EA Peer Evaluators witnessed INAB conduct assessments at two testing and calibration laboratories, two medical testing laboratories, a management systems & product certification body and two inspection bodies with particular focus on the INAB Assessment Team and how they assess to the relevant standards.

EA PEER REVIEW TEAM



*Back Row: Tsvetanka Zaharieva-Kaneva BAS Bulgaria; Aurlie Hou, COFRAC France; Ralf Egner, DAKKS Germany; Kyriacos Tsimillis, Cyprus; Jure Cizman, Slovenia;
Front Row: Roxanne Robinson, US – ILAC evaluation of EA region; Fredrik Langmead, SWEDAC and Kanella Tsakani, Greece.*



European co-operation for Accreditation

Outcome

INAB is currently signatory to five EA multilateral agreements and has applied to be signatory to a new multilateral agreement for Verification, to remain within the EA MLA INAB relies on a successful outcome from this Peer Review. The EA Peer Team raised some minor concerns and comments but no non-conformities. The summary report and recommendation on INAB's signatory status was presented and this recommendation will be considered at the EA Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC) meeting in October 2014.

INAB would like to extend our thanks to those organisations involved, and the INAB assessors for their co-operation during the peer review. INAB is extremely pleased with the outcome.

LOTUS CALIBRATION LABORATORY EXTEND THEIR SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

In February 2014, Lotus Automation Ireland Ltd. t/a Lotus Technical Services were awarded an extension to their calibration laboratory's scope of accreditation.

The laboratory was initially awarded accreditation on 7th December 2010 for electrical and temperature calibration and extended its scope for balance and volumetric calibration.



(L-R) Tom McGuinn, Calibrations Supervisor, LotusWorks; Tom Cafferkey, Director, LotusWorks; James Stapleton, Accreditation Officer INAB; Noel Molloy, Calibrations Manager, LotusWorks & Nicola Kennedy, Quality Manager, LotusWorks.

INAB MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Adrienne Duff, Manager

In keeping with the past number of years, 2014 has got off to a very busy start. The previous year ended with 203 accredited organisations across all programmes. Our annual surveillance schedule continued as planned with 343 on-site visits completed, an increase of 9% on 2012.

In 2013, INAB continued to experience growth in demand for its services across all programmes. Demand for accreditation of medical testing laboratories continues to grow as does accreditation of bodies certifying food schemes. However, in 2013 new fields of activity also emerged; stack emission testing, reference material producers and new regulations governing green-house gas emissions trading.

INAB also welcomed three new Board members (Dr Emer Lawlor, Mr Jim O'Toole and Ms Ita Kinahan) and changes in membership of our Medical Advisory Committee.

Our clients will be aware of the changes to the accreditation standards which are due to be implemented over the next one-two years and the communications that have been issued from INAB. INAB staff and assessors have undergone training in preparation for these transitions which are already underway.

This year has started with some significant events. The INAB assessor forum held in January and the peer evaluation in April are both mentioned in this edition.

The assessor forum is held every two years and is a great opportunity to meet our assessors and discuss issues and updates on accreditation requirements. In April 2014, INAB was subject to a peer evaluation performed by EA (the European Co-operation for Accreditation). The seven person team evaluated INAB operations for compliance to ISO 17011 and regulation 765/2008 and for an extension to our MLA scope in the area of verification.

Both events entail considerable preparation by INAB staff and we appreciate the co-operation of our assessors and clients.

Over the coming weeks, INAB will be re-locating parent organisation and premises. Arising from a Government decision to integrate the policy functions of Forfás into the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, it was decided that INAB would be integrated into the Health and Safety Authority. Legislation to effect these changes has been prepared and is currently progressing through the legislative process.

INAB will communicate new contact details to all our clients and assessors in due course. I want to assure you at this time that INAB will make every effort to minimise disruption in the delivery of the accreditation service.

I would like to thank all our clients for their support and cooperation during the year and we look forward to working with you in 2014 and building on the achievements of 2013.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Board members who provide invaluable input and whose contribution is critical to the proper functioning of INAB.

INAB HOLDS ITS 5TH ASSESSOR FORUM

On 30th January 2014, INAB welcomed 43 national and international assessors to Dublin where it held its 5th Assessor Forum.

The primary objective of the Forum is to exchange information with assessors, and harmonise the accreditation process. Adrienne Duff, Manager of INAB, opened the Forum by welcoming new and existing assessors to Dublin, and thanking them for their dedication to INAB and its clients.

The morning session started with four break-out sessions, specific to Medical Testing; Testing and Calibration, Certification and Inspection. Each session concentrated on relevant issues and technically specific

topics for that standard. This gave assessors the opportunity to feedback to INAB within their fields of interest. This proved to be very constructive.

In the afternoon there were presentations from INAB on policy and processes. Our guest speaker, Mr Oliver Power, from NSAI National Metrology Laboratory presented to the group on Calibration and Uncertainty of Measurement "Delusions of Accuracy", a truly interesting and absorbing presentation.

Overall the feedback from our survey of the event was extremely positive; the majority of participants felt the Forum was well above their expectations, in relation to content and format.

INAB would like to extend thanks to all who attended and for their participation, in particular a special thank you to Oliver Power from NML. All INAB assessors can access the presentations on the INAB Extranet.



INAB WELCOMES NEW ACCREDITATION OFFICER

INAB would like to welcome Mr Terry Hallahan to the INAB staff. Terry joins us on secondment from the Health and Safety Authority as an INAB Accreditation officer.



Terry Hallahan
INAB Accreditation Officer

I have recently joined the Irish National Accreditation Board as an Accreditation Officer and I am currently responsible for a portfolio of accredited Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

My background is in the field of aeronautical engineering, having commenced my career with the Irish Air Corps as an aircraft maintenance technician. Following award of my B.S.c degree in Occupational Safety and Health Management from University College Dublin in 2006, I was involved with implementation of the Defence Forces Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

In 2008 I joined the Health and Safety Authority as an Inspector, attached to the Authority's Compliance Division. In this role I worked as a general compliance Inspector, undertaking inspections and investigations across various economic sectors including, wholesale & retail, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and the offshore oil & gas industry.

My new role with the Irish National Accreditation Board will involve the management of the accreditation process of Testing and Calibration Laboratories from initial assessment through to surveillance and reassessment.

This role I believe will prove to be challenging and fulfilling; challenging as INAB continues to grow and diversify, while fulfilling as a result of working with the INAB team to facilitate the accreditation process.



INAB ACCREDITS ITS FIRST CERTIFICATION BODY FOR MEDICAL DEVICE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

In February 2014, BQAI was awarded an extension to their existing scope of accreditation to include the Medical Device Quality Management System Standard EN ISO 13485:2012 (ISO 13485:2003).

BQAI has been accredited since May 2005, initially to ISO Guide 62/EN 45012, and then in 2008 to ISO 17021.



Mr Andrew Stratford, INAB Accreditation Officer presents Declan O'Connor, CEO, BQAI with Accreditation Certificate.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK – INAB CLIENT SURVEY 2014

On 21st May 2014, INAB distributed an online survey via email to all its accredited and applicant members.

The main objective of the survey is to ascertain our clients satisfaction with the accreditation process and communications. We would ask all recipients to complete the survey by June 27th 2014.

If you have any queries, please contact orla.ivers@inab.ie

PT & INTER-LAB COMPARISON QUESTIONNAIRE

On the 12th February 2014, INAB conducted a questionnaire on Proficiency Testing (PT) Participation/Inter-laboratory Comparisons undertaken by our laboratories. The questionnaire was sent to 178 clients with a 45% response rate.

The main objective of the survey was to ascertain our client's activity in PTs and Inter Laboratory comparisons, and any gaps they have identified. INAB will update our PT register with new PT Schemes, where necessary which will be available on our website. INAB would like to thank the laboratories that completed the questionnaire.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)

EA MLA for EU/ETS – Regulation (EU) No 600/2012

A specific scope for EU ETS verification was established under the EA Multi-Lateral Agreement (MLA) and shall be signed by all EA NABs by the end of 2014 once they successfully undergo Peer Evaluation by EA. Additional technical work shall be carried out with regard to the establishment of a database on accredited verifiers.

With this in place, member states shall accept the accreditation certificates of verifiers accredited by these national accreditation bodies and respect the right of the verifiers to carry out verification for their scope of accreditation.

INAB will await a decision on their Peer Review by the EA MAC who will meet in October 2014. If the outcome is successful, INAB will be invited to sign the EA Multilateral agreement during the EA General Assembly to be held in The Hague, the Netherlands on 19–20 November 2014.

NEWS FROM EA COMMITTEES

INAB is represented at all EA technical Committees. The role of each Committee can be found on the EA website.



It is an opportunity to represent INAB at European level, interact with European colleagues and raise questions or issues of concern. The following is a brief summary of the recent Committee meetings and the key points under discussion:

EA Horizontal Harmonisation Committee (HHC)

Adrienne Duff – 18th/19th March 2014, Brussels

- Finalising draft documents on the procedures to be applied when evaluating a conformity assessment scheme for accreditation (EA-1/22) and guidance on accreditation for the purposes of appointing notified bodies (EA-2/17). Both documents have now been circulated for comment within the EA membership.
- Discussions on accreditation of sampling and surveillance/re-assessment activities.
- Next meeting is scheduled for September 2014.

EA Communications and Publications Committee (CPC)

Orla Ivers – 6th/7th March 2014, Belgrade

- Design project on a new EA logo.
- Investigate the current use of the EA search facility.
- Promotion of the EA Website/Intranet and World Accreditation Day.

- Documents under review include EA-INF/03; EA-INF/06, the Guide to EA and CPC Terms of Reference (ToR).

EA Laboratory Committee (LC)

Frank Crowe – 12th/13th March 2014, Malta

- **Sampling:** There is consensus within EA that sampling in conjunction with testing will be covered by accreditation to ensure reliable results.

EA Certification Committee Meeting (CC)

James Stapleton – 25th/26th March 2014, Oslo

- Transitions to the next editions of ISO 9001 and ISO 22000 will have a three year time period from date of publication.
- It was noted that the commenting period for DIS 17021-1 will close in April and the expected date for publication is 2015.
- A draft regulation on greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport has been prepared.
- The Food Working Group will consider at their June 2014 meeting whether EA-3/12 must be revised following the revision of the Organic Farming Regulation.
- IAF will be finalise and issue a document on certification witnessing activity.

EA Inspection Committee Meeting (IC)

James Stapleton – 27th March 2014, Oslo

- A paper was presented on the use of testing as part of inspection activities. It was noted in the paper that it is not easy to clearly assign testing that should come under ISO 17020 and that which should come under ISO 17025.
- Assessment of the management systems requirements of Options A and B in revised accreditation standards such as ISO 17020.

For further information on EA and the EA Committees log onto www.european-accreditation.org

INAB ACCREDIT FIRST REFERENCE MATERIAL PRODUCER

On 15th April, Reagecon Diagnostics Ltd became the first INAB accredited Reference Material Producer in Ireland.

Reagecon applied to INAB for accreditation to ISO Guide 34 for the production for Certified Reference Material (CRM), sucrose in water intended as a calibrant or analytical control solution for use in Refractive Index based methods of Brix value determination.

Reagecon has been accredited by INAB to ISO/IEC 17025 since 1990 for their respective scopes of accreditation in volumetric, balance, and temperature calibrations and chemical testing.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

INAB welcome receipt of expressions of interest from experts seeking to provide contracted professional technical services to INAB in support of its accreditation programmes.

Expertise demand will vary from time to time but INAB would welcome contact from potential assessors in the following sectors: Food, environment, construction materials testing, calibration, forensic science, and medical testing. The full range and scope of activities is documented on www.inab.ie

Candidates should have a third level qualification and greater than five years experience working in the applicable sector. Formal assessor training and previous experience working with an accreditation body would be a distinct advantage.

If interested, please complete the IP25 EX form, which is available in the "contact us" section on the website.

SINGLE MULTI-SITE ACCREDITATION FOR EPA

In June 2013, EPA applied to INAB for a single multi-site accreditation for the EPA laboratories. Audits in December 2013 and January 2014 by INAB were successful, and the EPA air and water laboratories have now been **awarded** one single integrated multi-site accreditation with accreditation of 11 common water analytical methods (equating to over 40 analytical parameters) and 6 air analytical and calibration methods). Overall, the culmination of this work has seen a change in culture that has considerably strengthened the laboratories and the service provided by them.

The project to integrate the five water and ambient air laboratories was initiated following an internal review of OEA (Office of Environmental Assessment) carried out by the EPA in 2010 which recommended that the laboratories should evolve towards an integrated structure with shared QA/QC, methods and a single EPA accreditation.



Adrienne Duff, INAB Manager presenting a INAB Accreditation Certificate to Laura Burke, Director General EPA (left) and Éidín Christie, EPA Quality and Project Manager (centre), with Laboratory Staff and Managers.

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2014

321MT	Sligo General Hospital – Microbiology Department	Sligo
322T	APAC Consulting Ltd trading as Glenside Environmental – Stack Emission Testing Laboratory	Cork
5011	Management Systems Certification Ltd – QMS	Wexford
001RM	Reagecon Diagnostics Ltd	Clare

For further information, please refer to the Directory of Accredited Bodies available on www.inab.ie

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CABS	Conformity Assessment Bodies
EA	European Co-operation for Accreditation
EA MLA	European Co-operation for Accreditation multilateral agreements
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation

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The INAB Standard is published bi annually and is available on www.inab.ie

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