

EA's policy concerning notified bodies - EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes, EA-2/17, was revised and re-issued in April 2020. This document outlines the policy agreed by EA for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) as a basis for notification. EA-2/17 applies to the assessment of notified bodies working within the new legislative framework and other related legislation that is not fully aligned. This document also applies to bodies performing assessment and verification of constancy of performance under the construction products regulation.

EA-2/17 is a "members' procedural document" with a mandatory status. It applies to all accreditation bodies that assess and accredit CABs for notification purposes, unless the notifying and/or regulating authority, at its own discretion, has officially established and published different requirements. EA-2/17 specifies the preferred accreditation standards for notification purposes and these are listed in tables within the document. No Irish notifying and/or regulatory authority has established different requirements to those given in EA-2/17 so the preferred standards are mandatory standards in the context of INAB accreditation.

The majority of CABs accredited by INAB have been assessed against the accreditation standards as given in EA-2/17 and all new applicants have been assessed in this manner since the document was revised.

A small number of CABs are not currently accredited in accordance with the standards given in EA-2/17 and will be required to transition to the specified standard(s), at the latest, by the end of 2022. In some cases this will necessitate transferring a portion of the scope to a different accreditation standard. INAB will engage with impacted CABs in 2021 and assessments will be completed in 2022.

CABs that are required to transition should develop a plan of action and submit to INAB by the end of 2021. It is a requirement that all CABs accredited for the purpose of notification shall comply with the revised EA-2/17 by April 2023. For those CABs impacted an application for extension to scope will be required.