

The INAB Standard



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD

DECEMBER 2006

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MINISTER AHERN COMMENDS INAB AT 21st ANNIVERSARY IN DUBLIN CASTLE



Pictured L-R: Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB; Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce and Tom Dempsey, Manager of INAB

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) celebrated its 21st year in Accreditation, in Dublin Castle on the evening of the 11th October 2006. Mr. Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce gave the opening address, in which he commended INAB on the vital role it plays in the ongoing development and progress of the Irish economy.

Over 110 guests attended, including applicant and accredited members and key stakeholders. INAB were delighted to welcome representatives of accreditation bodies from Denmark, UK, Italy, Germany and France. The speaker program included keynote presentations by the chairmen of the three international organisations responsible for accreditation.



Lorenzo Thione, Chairman,
European Accreditation Co-operation (EA)



Daniel Pierre, Chairman, International Laboratory
Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)



Thomas Facklam, Chairman,
International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

The Irish National Accreditation Board would like to say a big thank you to all those involved in making the event such a success.

MINISTER PRESENTS RECOGNITION AWARDS

As part of the 21 celebratory evening in Dublin Castle, INAB recognised the contribution that a number of its accredited Inspection, Testing, and Certification bodies have made in raising the quality of the infrastructure in Ireland.

INDUSTRIAL PRESSURE TESTING

LONGEST INAB ACCREDITED INSPECTION BODY



Pictured L-R: Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB; Mr Noel Barrett, Industrial Pressure Testing Ltd and Mr. Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce

EUROPEAN REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR PERSONNEL COMPETENCE (ERS)

FIRST INAB ACCREDITED PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION BODY



Pictures L-R: Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB; Mr John Senders, ERS, and Mr. Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce.

NATIONAL STANDARDS AUTHORITY IRELAND (NSAI)

LONGEST ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODY



Pictured L-R: Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB; Mr Simon Kelly, NSAI and Mr. Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce.

BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEMS LTD

FIRST INAB ACCREDITED MEDICAL TESTING LABORATORY



Pictured L-R: Dr Maire Walsh, Chairperson of INAB; Mr Seamus O'Brien, Bon Secours and Mr. Michael Ahern T.D., Minister for Trade and Commerce.

INAB 21ST PHOTOS

To view all photos from the 21st event in Dublin Castle log on to www.inab.ie and check out the latest news section.

EA MAC COMMITTEE

Adrienne Duff - Accreditation Officer

The EA multi-lateral agreement committee (MAC) meeting took place on 5th and 6th October 2006 in Brussels. Tom Dempsey and Adrienne Duff attended on behalf of INAB. The MAC committee considers the peer evaluation process performed by EA of all Accreditation Bodies signatory to the multi-lateral agreements (MLAs).

The report on the evaluation of INAB, which was held in January and February 2006, was presented for decision. The MAC carefully considered the findings of the peer evaluation team and INAB provided clarification on some aspects of our accreditation process. The MAC decided to continue the signatory status of INAB for testing/calibration (ISO17025 and ISO15189), QMS, EMS and Product certification and to enter the MLA for its inspection activities.

The agenda for this meeting contained the evaluation reports for 5 other accreditation bodies along with reports on follow up of corrective actions implemented in accreditation bodies previously evaluated. Improvements in the peer evaluator training process and general improvements on how accreditation bodies evaluations are performed were discussed. Developments in cross frontier activities and updating EA documents were reviewed and added to the work programme of this committee.

EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE

James Stapleton - Accreditation Officer

The EA laboratory committee meeting took place on the 12th and 13th September 2006 in Paris. James Stapleton attended the meeting on behalf of INAB. A wide range of topics was discussed and a presentation was given to the committee by a representative of the international Measuring Network of Wind Energy Institutes (MEASNET). This organisation was set up to allow for the mutual recognition of measurement results and accreditation is a requirement of membership.

The laboratory committee was informed that the EPTIS database of PT providers has been updated. This list is based on self declaration. The website can be accessed at <http://www.eptis.bam.de/>

A guideline document for the management of computers and software in laboratories is being brought to a final stage. This should assist laboratories and accreditation bodies in meeting the requirements of the applicable standard. INAB issued its own policy statement earlier in the year (INAB PS14) and the new guideline should help to further clarify this area.

A discussion took place concerning the requirement of laboratories for a clear statement that assessment to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 includes the management system. Reference was made to the joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué dated 18 June 2005 which is available from the ILAC website on www.ilac.org

INAB PEER EVALUATION SUCCESS

At a meeting of EA's General Assembly held in Istanbul in October 2006, it was confirmed at the signing ceremony that INAB will become a signatory to the MLA for Accreditation of Inspection Bodies and will continue as a signatory to the EA MLAs (Multilateral Agreement) for calibration and testing, and certification of Products, QMS and EMS.

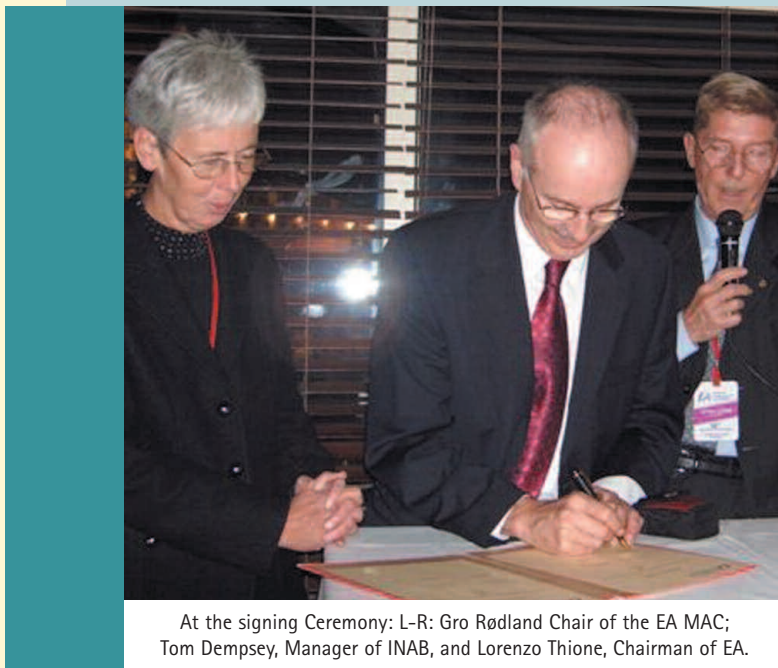
In order to establish that INAB could maintain and extend its membership to the European and international MLAs, INAB underwent the first stage of an in-depth evaluation by the EA Peer Evaluation Team Leader and EA team member for QMS/EMS accreditation on the 9th /10th January 2006. This began the evaluation and concentrated on INAB's internal quality management systems and its compliance with ISO 17011, and INAB accreditation activities in both the QMS and EMS fields.

The 2nd and final phase commenced on the 20th February 2006 and comprised a further 5 days in-depth evaluation during which time 3 international accreditation experts joined the Team leader to evaluate INAB accreditation activities in laboratory accreditation, product certification and inspection. This phase was also a combination of INAB Head Office review and on-site witnessing of INAB accreditation activities.

A full report was prepared by the Peer evaluation team and INAB responded to issues raised. The completed report was then considered for decision by the EA MAC at the October meeting.

INAB is delighted with the successful outcome and would like to thank all stakeholders involved in ensuring this success. The next re-evaluation of INAB is scheduled for early 2010.

INAB is pleased to be able to continue to provide its members with the benefits that result from its membership of both the European and international multilateral recognition agreements.



At the signing Ceremony: L-R: Gro Rødland Chair of the EA MAC; Tom Dempsey, Manager of INAB, and Lorenzo Thione, Chairman of EA.

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2006

171T	Central Meat Control Laboratory Backweston Laboratory Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare Chemistry & Biology Testing Laboratory
5008	Samuin Standards Institute Ltd 34 Green Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland Via del Sale, 13, 26100 Cremona, Italy
172T	En-Force Laboratories Ltd. Unit G, Ballyvolane Business Park, Spring Lane, Ballyvolane, Cork Biological Testing Laboratory
173T	OMAC Laboratories Ltd. Athenry Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway Chemical Testing Laboratory
174T	Coillte Laboratories Church Road, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow Chemical Testing Laboratory

ISO 15189 STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Marie O'Mahony - Accreditation Officer

In 2003 the international standard for medical laboratories ISO 15189 Medical laboratories-Particular requirements for quality and competence, was published by The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

An ISO 15189 Stakeholder survey document on the application and implementation of this standard was prepared by Working Group 1 of ISO/Technical Committee 212 Clinical laboratory Testing and In Vitro Diagnostic Test Systems, and distributed to the stakeholders identified by members of Working Group The main objectives of the survey were to determine if guidance would be required for the implementation of ISO 15189 and to identify areas for future revision to the standard, if any aspects of the standard were in conflict with legislation or other national requirements and what type of bodies were interested in the standard. INAB participated in this survey.

The issue that was most raised in the survey was measurement uncertainty and traceability. This has led to a new work item "Laboratory Medicine - Estimation and reporting of measurement uncertainty of routine values" being approved as an activity for the ISO/TC working group. The overall general findings were that guidance to ISO 15189 is required and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Committee) will prepare this. A need for enhanced quality assurance programmes for medical laboratories particularly in some parts of the world was also identified.

There is a list of documents contained in attachment 5 of the survey which medical laboratories may find helpful. A detailed copy of the completed survey is now available on our website, www.inab.ie.



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ACCREDITATION PROCESS SURVEY

Orla Doyle/Andrew Stratford

On the 31st August 2006, INAB rolled out its web based survey to its accredited and applicant clients by email to provide feedback and comments to INAB on our accreditation process. The survey officially closed on 28th September 2006.

Feedback and Actions:

- Findings report sent by email to all members
- All clients that included a contact name will be contacted directly by their Accreditation officer, either by phone or at the next visit to discuss their feedback.

In response to the survey, one significant outcome is a proposed 1 day workshop; this will be run in Dublin and Cork.

INAB would like to thank all those that took the time to complete the survey and provide feedback.