



Tom Dempsey, Manager of INAB

I wish all our stakeholders and readers a very happy New Year as we look forward to working with you in 2008. The past year was once again a very busy year for INAB and its clients. One hundred and seventy on-site inspections were completed in 2007 and INAB maintained accreditation with one hundred and ten organisations. Eleven new accreditations and sixty four extensions to scope were also awarded during 2007. INAB delivered a number of new accreditation programmes to support national legislative or sector scheme requirements specifically for the health, energy, environment and food sectors as outlined below.

The implementation of an accreditation programme to ISO 15189 for hospital laboratories assessing the quality of blood and blood products in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 360 of 2005 was a major project for INAB during 2007. INAB is currently processing over forty applications for this scheme.

INAB, in cooperation with the EPA, is actively preparing for the implementation of the revised EU Emissions Trading Scheme. INAB also accredited two new inspection bodies in 2007 in accordance with the EC Directive on volatile organic emissions.

Accreditation of certification bodies certifying organic farming under the European Directive is expected to mature in 2008.

The accreditation scheme for energy management system certification to the Irish Standard I.S. 393 was successfully implemented in 2007 with one certification body achieving accreditation for this activity.

I would like to acknowledge the significant support and cooperation which INAB received during 2007 from the Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Energy Ireland and the Irish Medicines Board in developing and implementing these new accreditation programmes.

Promotion and awareness of accreditation and feedback from our clients and stakeholders continued to be a priority issue during 2007. Four editions of the INAB newsletter were distributed, two client workshops were held in Cork and Dublin during September to address issues highlighted by the client survey conducted in 2006. (see pg 3 for further awareness activity information).

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 2008 and building on the achievements of 2007. Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Board members who provide their services free of charge and whose contribution is essential for the operation of the national accreditation board.

INAB ASSESSOR FORUM 2008

Orla Doyle – Project Executive

On the 22nd and 29th January, INAB held its 2nd INAB Assessor Forum in Dublin. The primary objective of the forum is the exchange of information with assessors, to harmonise the accreditation process and to highlight aspects of the process for continual improvement.

Tom Dempsey, Manager of INAB, opened both events by welcoming new and existing assessors to the forum and thanking them for their dedication to INAB and its clients. The role of INAB and the harmonisation of the accreditation process were first on the agenda. Tom gave feedback specific to the assessors on the results of the accreditation survey and our client workshops in 2007.

After coffee, Accreditation Officers Marie O'Mahony and Adrienne Duff covered the session on Assessing Competence, which included areas such as PS10 – preparation and pre-work and assessment of the quality system within technical activities.

Session 3 concentrated on Aspects of the Assessment Process, and Accreditation Officers Andrew Stratford, Pat O'Brien, Sinead Guckian and Frank Crowe gave presentations covering areas like deviating samples, non compliances, LOD's and flexible scopes!

In the final session, Emma Scott McGrane presented on the internal administration of fees and invoicing and gave some tips on a more streamlined process for assessors.

Overall the event was very successful, with plenty of discussion and feedback.



Assessor Forum – 22nd and 29th January 2008

CHEMISTRY NETWORK

Orla Doyle – Project Executive

Chemistry Network Co-Coordinator Grainne Carroll from the State Laboratory gives us the background on the network and its meetings.

What is the Chemistry Network?

The origin of the Chemistry Network dates back to March 2003, when an open forum for laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 (and those preparing for or considering accreditation) took place. The majority opinion as canvassed during this seminar was in favour of establishing a network of laboratories to serve as a platform for the discussion of issues relating to accreditation. It was decided to have separate networks for specific sectors, e.g. Chemistry, Microbiology, Calibration, etc.

Preparations for establishing the Chemistry Network began in 2004 when accredited chemical testing laboratories were surveyed for their views on how the Chemistry Network should be organised. The preference was for e-mail communication with occasional meetings. In August 2005, e-mail invitations were sent by the Network Coordinator to the Quality Managers (or contact person) of all chemical (or related) testing laboratories listed in the INAB Directory inviting them to join the Chemistry Network and to attend the first meeting. INAB were contacted and agreed to inform applicant laboratories about the Chemistry Network. Of the 46 accredited (and 8-10) applicant laboratories contacted, 22 expressed an interest in joining the network. The first meeting of the Chemistry Network was held in September 2005 at which 13 laboratories were represented.

Who are its members?

Membership of the Chemistry Network is open to Quality Managers of all INAB accredited and applicant chemical testing laboratories. Currently there are 24 members representing 19 accredited laboratories. The majority of members represent public sector laboratories. At the first meeting, it was agreed that membership of the network presupposed a willingness to be contacted by other members seeking assistance on accreditation issues.

What is its objective?

The original objective of the Chemistry Network was to serve as a platform for the discussion of issues relating to accreditation and to provide a mechanism to raise issues of common concern with INAB as a group. The Network provides a list of e-mail contacts that members can access for advice on any aspect of accreditation or the operation of a quality system or to discuss new INAB documents or changes to INAB requirements.

Members are also encouraged to share useful information with the Network, e.g. on upcoming seminars, training resources, relevant websites, service providers, etc. The success of the Network relies totally on the active participation of the members.

How often do you meet?

The Chemistry Network holds yearly meetings, generally in September. Members are invited to submit topics for inclusion on the agenda. However, the primary way in which the Network operates is via e-mail exchanges.

What are the benefits of being a member of this Network?

Benefit of membership has probably arisen mainly from the exchange of useful information among the membership, either via e-mail or at meetings. To date, two issues have been raised with INAB via the Network, both relating to INAB documentation. A list of the topics discussed to date include the following; range statements in scope, water directive, flexible scope, document control software, method validation, calibration intervals, internal audits, assessment of suppliers, service providers and measurement uncertainty estimation.

New members are always welcome from accredited or applicant chemical testing laboratories. Further details are available from the Chemistry Network Coordinator, Grainne Carroll, State Laboratory (Tel: 505 7017; email gcarroll@statelab.ie)

INAB is pleased to see the progress made by this network of applicant and accredited chemical laboratories and looks forward to cooperating with the Network on issues of common interest.

Thanks to Grainne Carroll for taking the time out to give us an overview of the Network.

AHP Manufacturing B.V. T/A Wyeth Medical Ireland were presented with their EMAS Award in November 2007



(L-R) Dr Michael Donlon (Associate Director, Environment, Health & Safety), Robert Vincent (Managing Director), Andrew Stratford, (INAB), Dr Edward Molyneux (Environment Manager).

AWARENESS OF ACCREDITATION AND INAB

Orla Doyle – Project Executive

As part of the INAB Awareness Campaign, we are conducting two surveys to ascertain the awareness of accreditation and its benefits in Ireland. The first phase concentrates on policy makers, government bodies and industry to ascertain their understanding of accreditation and INAB. The second phase, which will be conducted later in 2008, will concentrate on end users of the accreditation process.

Phase 1: On December 5th 2007, INAB distributed a survey on Awareness of Accreditation and INAB to approximately 1200 senior government staff (TDs, senators, policy makers) and Irish industry (CEOs, MDs, QMs).



The objective of the survey was to ascertain the awareness of accreditation and INAB. Respondents targeted were not members of INAB and not directly involved with the accreditation process.

The survey was sent out in hard copy and was also available online. Between December 2007 and February 2008, the survey has had a 15.5% response rate.

Profile of Respondents:
68% public sector / 32% private sector

Overall 95% of those that responded are aware of accreditation.

- 76% are aware of INAB
- 67% are aware of accreditation bodies other than INAB
- 42% of respondent recognize the INAB Symbol.
- 53% of respondents say that accreditation does impact on their organization
- Only 32% of respondents use the services of an accredited inspection body, certification body or laboratory.
- 76% of respondents do not believe that the difference between certification and accreditation is understood.
- 40% of respondents requested feedback.

1. Are you familiar with the term Accreditation			
		Response Percent	Response Count
YES		95.3%	162
NO		4.7%	8
answered question			170

INAB would like to thank all those that have taken the time to complete the survey- all requests for feedback will be followed up. INAB will be in contact with our members to discuss phase II of our survey for their input.

In January 2008, INAB took out a 1/4 page colour announcement in the national paper, The Irish Times. This included a full list of all our INAB accredited laboratories, inspection and certification members.

In February 2008 – INAB included a 1/4 page colour announcement of all its accredited members; this was placed beside an Accreditation feature, which included an interview of the manager of INAB, Mr Tom Dempsey.

Occupational Hygiene and Safety Services Ltd (OHSS) were presented their INAB accreditation certificate in November 2007

OHSS are the first company in Ireland to be accredited by INAB for the full spectrum of asbestos related safety and removal work to ISO 17020 as an inspection body and to ISO 17025 as a testing laboratory.



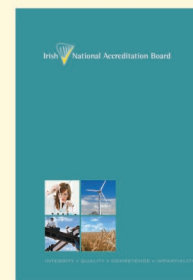
(L-R) Paul Foran, MD of Occupational Hygiene and Safety Services Ltd (OHSS), Billy Kelleher, TD and the Minister for Labour Affairs, Martin O'Halloran, CEO of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), and Patrick O'Brien, (INAB).

NEW INAB BROCHURE

Orla Doyle – Project Executive

INAB are delighted to announce the publication of our revised and updated Brochure.

The new INAB Brochure has been revised to capture changes and developments over the last 5 years. We've also incorporated a new style and image. We aim to circulate copies to all government bodies and industry to spread the word of accreditation and INAB.



ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2008

190T Roadbridge Ltd
Construction Materials Testing Laboratory

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2007

In 2007, 11 new accreditations were awarded.

- 182T Monaghan Veterinary Laboratory
Clones Road , Monaghan
Biology Testing Laboratory
- 183T Bodycote Consultus Ltd
Glanmire Industrial Estate, Glanmire, Co. Cork
Microbiology and Chemical Testing Laboratory
- 9006 Cork Institute of Technology (CTC)
Clean Technology Centre, Unit 1, Melbourne Business Park,
Model Farm Road, Cork
AIC Verifier for Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds
- 9007 AD Analytical
8 Terenure Road North, Dublin 6w
AIC Verifier for Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds
- 184T Neptune Laboratory Services Ltd
Oldenway Business Park , Ballybrit, Co. Galway
Biological Testing Laboratory
- 185T Enva Ireland Ltd., T/A Foodtech Consultants
Rocklawn, West Village, Ballincollig, Co. Cork
Microbiological Testing Laboratory
- 186C Calibration Technology Ltd
Innovation Works, National Technology Park, Co. Limerick
Balance & Volumetric Calibration Laboratory
- 9008 SWS Auditing Services
SWS BPO, Unit A, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty,
Co. Cork
Farm Inspection
- 187T Metlab International Ltd
Airways Technology Park, Rathmacullig West,
Ballygarvan, Co.Cork
Non-Destructive Testing and Construction Materials
Testing Laboratory
- 188C Davidson and Hardy Ltd
453-459 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 3BL
Temperature Calibration and Laboratory
- 189T Ascon Ltd
Kill Co. Kildare, Site Office: Tober Road,
Moate, Co. Westmeath
Construction Materials Testing Laboratory

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