



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM INAB

INAB would like to wish all our members, assessors, and readers of The INAB Standard a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



REGULATION 765/2008 AND THE ROLE OF INAB

Adrienne Duff – INAB Manager

The Council of the European Union and the European Parliament agreed an EU legislative package incorporating Regulation 765/2008 that will, for the first time, provide a legal framework for the provision of accreditation services across Europe.

The obligations placed on the Irish National Accreditation Board by the Regulation for the most part mirror the General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies as set out in the International Standard ISO 17011.

The accreditation services provided by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) are fully in compliance with ISO 17011 and INAB's compliance with this standard is confirmed by the European Co-operation for Accreditation through regular peer evaluations.

INAB's affirmation to this standard confirms its full signatory status to the European (EA) and International (ILAC and IAF) multi-lateral agreements, thereby ensuring mutual recognition of certificates issued by its accredited conformity assessment bodies.

INAB will continue, therefore to be the recognised National Accreditation Body providing accreditation to the international standards for testing (ISO 17025:2005 and ISO 15189:2007), Calibration (ISO 17025:2005), Certification (ISO 17021:2006, ISO Guide 65/EN 45011 and ISO 17024:2003) and Inspection (ISO 17020:2004) activities.

The Regulation obliges Member States to recognise accreditation as the preferred means to demonstrate the competence of conformity assessment bodies.

The legal framework for the provision of accreditation services established by this Regulation will enhance the confidence in conformity assessment and encourage the mutual recognition of conformity assessment results and certificates.

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is the national body with responsibility for Accreditation in Ireland. The accreditation process determines, in the public interest, the technical competence and integrity of organisations offering testing, inspection, calibration and certification services.

INAB ASSESSOR FORUM – 22ND JANUARY 2010

Orla Ivers – Project Executive

INAB will hold its 3rd Assessor Forum on the 22nd January 2010 in Dublin.

The primary objective of the forum is to exchange information with assessors, and harmonise the accreditation process.

The agenda will cover all aspects of the accreditation process, policy, conduct, and standards to ensure a harmonised process. The afternoon will see breakout focused sessions for Medical, Testing and Certification Assessors.

INAB Assessors from Ireland, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden will attend.

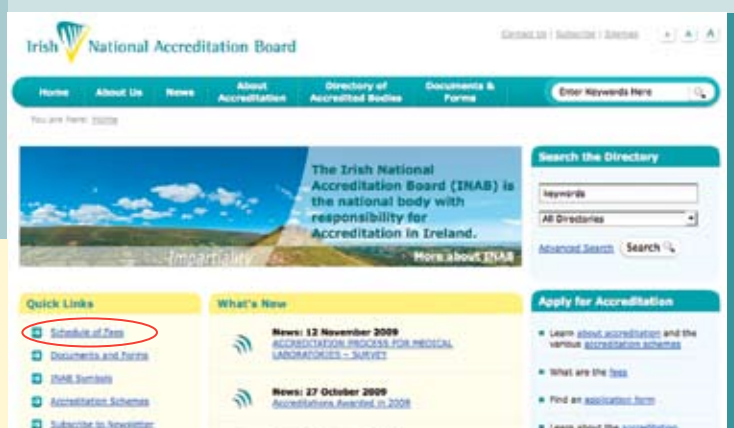
All active assessors were invited to the Forum via email – if you have not confirmed your attendance yet please email orla.ivers@inab.ie by December 22nd at the latest.

SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR 2010

INAB published the Schedule of Fees for 2010. Log onto www.inab.ie and click on the Schedule of Fees under the Quick Links bar.

Fees have remained unchanged since 2008.

If you have any queries, please contact your Accreditation Officer.



CHANGES ON THE INAB BOARD

Orla Ivers – Project Executive

NEW CHAIR IN 2010

Over 10 years of service, Dr Máire Walsh, Chair will retire from the INAB Board in January 2010 and Mr Tom O'Neill, Site Leader, Ringaskiddy API Manufacturing Plant will take on this role.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

INAB Board members are appointed by the Forfás Board and include representatives from State agencies, industry and consumer interests. INAB welcome three new members to the board.

1. Dr Andy Hodgson – Consultant Haematologist, Sligo Hospital

Dr Hodgson has been working as a Consultant Haematologist in Sligo General Hospital since 2004, looking after clinical and laboratory haematology and has been on the Medical Council Specialist Register of Haematologists (Clinical and Laboratory) since 2003. Since 2006, Dr Hodgson is National Speciality Director of Haematology for the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. His qualifications include Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery; B.Sc. (Hons); Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland; Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists and Fellowship of the Faculty of Pathology (Royal College of Physicians of Ireland) and a Diploma in Healthcare Management.

Dr Hodgson sat on the ISO 15189 advisory committee and co-chaired the INAB/IMO Advisory Committee on the EU Blood Directive.

2. Mr John Shine – Director of Commercial Practices, NCA

Mr Shine is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin (B.Sc. Computer Science). Following a number of years working as a systems analyst on a wide range of IT projects in the Dept. of Finance, he spent 10 years in the Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in a variety of roles, covering industrial policy, internal and structural funds audit and EU co-ordination. He has been working in the consumer area since early 2006, initially with the Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs and, since 2007, as Director of Commercial Practices in the National Consumer Agency. In that role, he is responsible for the National Consumer Agency's enforcement of a wide range of consumer legislation.

3. Professor Alan Reilly – CEO Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

Alan Reilly (B.Sc., MTech, CBiol, FIBiol, FIFSTI) is Chief Executive of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, College of Life Sciences, UCD. Before joining FSAI in 1999, Professor Reilly worked in the Food Safety Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

4. Mr Dermot Hayes – State Chemist, State Laboratory

In 2006, Mr Hayes was appointed the State Chemist of the State Laboratory. As head of the laboratory he is responsible for all administrative and analytical activities in the Laboratory.

Mr Hayes joined the State Laboratory in 1975, to establish a microbiological laboratory. In 2000, as Principal Chemist in the Laboratory, Mr Hayes was involved in managing a senior team and providing an analytical and advisory service to various clients and also acted as Technical Manager for the Laboratory's quality system. Dermot Hayes completed a B.Sc. (Hons) in microbiology/chemistry and M. Applied Sc. (Food Science) at University College Dublin.

In 1996, Mr Hayes acted as secretary to EURACHEM/EAL working group that developed the accreditation guide (ISO/IEC Guide 25) for Laboratories Performing Microbiological Testing and participated in the revision of the guidance document for ISO/IEC 17025.

INAB BOARD

Dr Máire Walsh – Chair

Former State Chemist, State Laboratory

Dr Nuala Bannon

Senior Advisor, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Michael Maloney

Director of Horticulture, Bord Bia

Vagn Andersen

Manager of International Affairs, DANAK

Mr Tom O'Neill

Site Leader, Ringaskiddy API Manufacturing Plant

Mr Dermot Hayes (position commences 2010)

State Chemist, State Laboratory

Mr Martin O'Halloran

CEO, The Health and Safety Authority

Dr Adrienne Duff

Manager INAB, Ex Officio Member

Mr Tom Dempsey

Former Manager, INAB

Dr Andrew Hodgson

Consultant Haematologist, Sligo General Hospital

Mr John Shine

Director of Commercial Practises, National Consumer Agency

Mr Pat O'Mahony

CEO, The Irish Medicines Board

Professor Alan Reilly

CEO, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

Secretary to the Board

Mr James Stapleton

Accreditation Officer

PRESENTATION BY INAB AT ACBI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Marie O'Mahony, Quality Manager, INAB gave a presentation on medical laboratory accreditation to ISO 15189 and the role of INAB in accreditation to this international standard at the ACBI Annual Conference.

Ms Mary Harney opened the Annual Conference of The ACBI (Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland) which was held on the 16th-17th October 2009 in The Radisson Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. The scientific programme included lectures on the role of biochemistry in a number of topical areas, ranging from the importance of laboratory medicine and nutrition to endocrinology and nephrology. In addition there were presentations on clinical leadership and pathology networks experience in the UK.



(Back Row L-R) Dr Maria Fitzgibbon with the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital organising committee, Dr Peadar McGing, Dr Mark Kilbane.
(Front Row L-R) Mr Kieran Halton, Ms Rachel Cullen, Ms Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health and Children, Dr Marguerite MacMahon, Chairperson ACBI 2009.



Marie O'Mahony, Quality Manager, INAB presenting at the ACBI Conference.



SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY INAB

Orla Ivers – Project Executive

MEDICAL ACCREDITATION SURVEY PROCESS

On 16th July 2009 all INAB applicant and accredited medical laboratories were invited to participate in a survey on their experience of the accreditation process from initial stages through to approval of accreditation.

The survey was conducted using a web based survey – which was distributed by email to 62 medical laboratories. The survey was completed on 7th August 2009. An internal review of the findings took place in October 2009 and the INAB Board will be presented the findings and proposed actions in December 2009.

A full report of the findings is available from the INAB website www.inab.ie – under the latest news.

Summary:

1. 54 participants started the survey – 37 completed in full.
2. 59% response rate.
3. Majority of respondents clients of INAB – 2 years.
4. 92% of respondents are in the area of Blood Transfusion.
5. 71% are public organisations.

INAB would like to thank all respondents for their participation.

PT SCHEMES AND ILC PARTICIPATION SURVEY

On 27th August 2009 all INAB applicant and accredited medical, testing and calibration laboratories were invited to participate in our survey on PT Schemes and ILC participation. The survey was conducted using a web based survey which was distributed by email to 165 laboratories. The survey closed end of October 2009.

Summary:

1. 61% response rate.
2. 102 participants completed the survey in full.
3. 59% of respondents are testing laboratories.
4. 31% of respondents are medical laboratories.
5. 10% of respondents are calibration laboratories.

INAB would like to thank all respondents for their participation. A final report will be prepared on our findings and will be available in the coming months.

