



FIRST ACCREDITATION FOR RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTIONS IN EUROPE

Pat O'Brien – Accreditation Officer

The **Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII)** has become the first regulatory authority in Europe engaged in radiation protection inspections to receive the certificate of accreditation to ISO 17020 for its inspection services. The RPII was presented with its certificate of accreditation by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) on the 26th February 2009.

Accreditation to the international standard means that the RPII carries out its inspections, including inspection planning, follow-up and review, as part of an overall quality system that is subject to international peer review.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Mr Michael Kitt, TD, said: *"It is fundamental to the safety and security of people in Ireland that the use of ionising radiation is properly regulated. The achievement of this award has demonstrated the RPII's commitment to ensuring the highest standards. In Europe, Ireland is leading in this regard, not following."*

Dr Ann McGarry, Chief Executive of the RPII, on accepting the award said: *"The RPII is fully aware of its regulatory responsibilities and applies the highest standards of regulatory enforcement. This award will ensure that we focus on continued improvement in this aspect of our work and that a high standard of radiation protection applies across all our licensees so that workers and the public are protected."*



(From L-R): Professor Eugene Kennedy, Chairman of RPII Board; Mr Michael Kitt, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government; Mr James Stapleton, INAB; Dr Ann McGarry, CEO of RPII; and Dr Tom Ryan, Director of Regulatory Division RPII.

FIRST ACCREDITATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF INTRUDER ALARM INSTALLERS

Andrew Stratford – Accreditation Officer

On November 12th 2008, **EQA (Ireland)** were formally presented with an EN 45011 accreditation certificate by Geraldine Larkin, CEO of the Private Security Authority (PSA) on behalf of INAB. This certificate provides the PSA and the public with confidence that audits on intruder alarm installers are competently carried out in accordance with the requirements of recognised standards.

The standards in this case are EN 50131-1, EN 50131-7 and S.R. 40, all relating to the provision of intruder alarm systems. The European standards cover design and installation of alarm systems, but the addition of S.R. 40 means that the organisation of the alarm company: financial stability, insurance, screening of employees, training and so on are also included in the audit.

EQA is the first certification body to be accredited by INAB for this scheme. They have also been accredited by INAB for provision of management system certification services since 2001, initially to ISO Guide 62 (EN 45012) and more recently to ISO 17021.



From (L-R): Eileen Golligly, (EQA); Andrew Stratford, (INAB); Geraldine Larkin, (CEO PSA); David Daly, (Managing Director EQA); Eamon Clinton, (EQA); and Christine Daly, (EQA).

CHANGES IN FEES FOR 2009

Since the announcement of the increase in fees in September 2008, Ireland's economic situation has changed and business is facing daily challenges. INAB has decided to defer the 2009 fee increase and rates for 2008 will remain in place.



European co-operation for Accreditation

NEW EA COMMITTEE – HORIZONTAL HARMONISATION COMMITTEE

The Horizontal Harmonization Committee (HHC) is a new committee, which was recently established by the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) at its General Assembly in November 2008.

The Horizontal Harmonization Committee is composed of representatives of the EA full members, accreditation bodies with which EA has a Cooperation Agreement, and of EA Stakeholders.

The preliminary Terms of Reference of the HHC specify that this committee will deal with horizontal technical issues regarding the application of general accreditation requirements on different types of conformity assessment bodies, the assessment of notified bodies and the elaboration of decisions on sector schemes. The Committee focuses on ISO/IEC 17011 and monitors the network sharing of knowledge for EU directives.

The HHC will closely liaise with the existing EA Technical Committees in order to examine these horizontal technical issues. The HHC will report to the EA General Assembly on all its activities and may, from time to time, address other specific issues at the request of the EA Executive Committee and/or of the General Assembly.

Ms. Merih Malmqvist-Nilsson from the Swedish Accreditation Board (Swedac) has been elected Chair of this committee and its first meeting is scheduled for 20th and 21st April in Brussels.

INAB will be represented on this Committee by Mr Pat O'Brien.



THE INAB BOARD

Changes on the Board

The INAB Board welcome two new members to the Board – Dr Adrienne Duff, INAB Manager; and Mr Tom Dempsey former Manager.

INAB Board members are appointed by the Forfás Board and include representatives from State agencies, industry and consumer interests.

Current Membership

Dr Máire Walsh – Chair

Former State Chemist, State Laboratory

Dr Nuala Bannon

Senior Advisor, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Dr Fiona Kenny

Consultant Microbiologist, Sligo General Hospital

Mr Michael Maloney

Director of Horticulture, Bord Bia

Mr Vagn Andersen

Manager of International Affairs, DANAK (Danish Accreditation Board)

Dr John O'Brien

CEO, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Mr Pat O'Mahony

CEO, The Irish Medicines Board

Mr Tom O'Neill

CEO, Pfizer Little Island Manufacturing

Mr Martin O'Halloran

CEO, The Health and Safety Authority

Dr Adrienne Duff

Manager INAB, Ex Officio Member

Mr Tom Dempsey

Former Manager, INAB

Secretary to the Board

Mr James Stapleton – INAB

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR:

- **Certification bodies certifying clients to ISO 22000 – Food Safety Management Systems**

ISO 22000:2005 is an international standard and defines the requirements of a food safety management system covering all organisations in the food chain from "farm to fork", including catering and packaging companies.

- **Certification bodies certifying clients to OHSAS 18001 – Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems**

OHSAS 18000 is an international occupational health and safety management system specification. It comprises two parts, 18001 and 18002 and embraces BS8800 and a number of other publications.

To apply for accreditation to either standard – please log on to www.inab.ie. Applications for certification bodies can be sourced from our Documents and Forms section.

ST. LUKES HOSPITAL – BLOOD TESTING LABORATORY AWARDED ACCREDITATION

Congratulations to St. Lukes Hospital, Rathgar, Dublin 6 (Reg No 205MT), who on 9th December 2008 was awarded accreditation by INAB to the internationally recognised standard ISO 15189 for their blood transfusion testing laboratory, and were also approved as competent to comply with the requirements of Article 14 (Traceability) and Article 15 (Notification of Serious Adverse Reactions and Events) of EU Blood Directive 2002/98/EC.



The staff of Saint Luke's Hospital Blood Bank (L-R): Carol Stephens, Cathal Prendergast, Leon Flanagan, Stuart Ingram, Donald McCarthy, Alice Melvin and Judy Taylor.

THE CHEMISTRY NETWORK



The objective of the network is to serve as a platform for the discussion of all things in chemistry testing accreditation. This includes anything from INAB policy documents to the operation of a quality system. Members of the network are encouraged to ask questions, share information and raise issues which are shared among the membership.

What are the benefits?

Exchange of relevant information and a forum to get questions answered among the membership and INAB.

Who can join?

The network is open to Quality Managers of all INAB accredited and applicant members of chemical testing laboratories.

How do members communicate?

The primary way the network operates is via email exchanges. The network meets once a year, generally in September. Members are invited to submit topics for the agenda.

Interested in joining?

Contact the Chemistry Network Co-Coordinator:

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SUMMARY OF INAB ACCREDITATION ACTIVITY

In 2008:

- 242 on site visits undertaken.
- 23 accreditations awarded by the INAB Board.
- 76 extensions to scope approved.

As at February 2009:

- Maintenance of 136 accreditations.
- 44 applications in hand.
 - 26 applicants at pre-assessment stage.
 - 18 applicants at assessment stage.

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2008

190T	Roadbridge Ltd Co. Limerick <i>Construction Materials Testing Laboratory</i>
191MT	The Mater Private Healthcare Group Dublin 7 <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
192MT	St. Vincent's Hospital Healthcare Group Dublin 4 <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
193T	Building Envelope Technologies Ltd Co. Wexford <i>Environmental Testing of Buildings Testing Laboratory</i>
194T	Southern Scientific Services Ltd Co. Kerry <i>Chemical and Biological Testing Laboratory</i>
195MT	Mullingar Midland Regional Hospital Co. Westmeath <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
196T	SM Morris Ltd Co. Wicklow <i>Construction Materials Testing Laboratory</i>
197MT	Kerry General Hospital Co. Kerry <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
198MT	Sligo General Hospital Co. Sligo <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
199MT	Cork University Hospital Co. Cork <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
200T	WALT Infrastructural Services Ltd Co. Kildare <i>Construction Materials Testing Laboratory</i>
201MT	The Bon Secours Health Systems Ltd Dublin 9 <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
202MT	Portiuncula Hospital Co. Galway <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
203MT	Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise Co. Laois <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
204MT	St. James Hospital Dublin 8 <i>Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory</i>
6007	EQA (Ireland) Ltd Dublin 6W <i>Product Certification</i>
205MT	St. Lukes Hospital Dublin 6 <i>Blood Transfusion Laboratory</i>
206MT	Bon Secours Health System Ltd Co. Kerry <i>Blood Transfusion Laboratory</i>
9009	Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland Dublin 14 <i>Inspection Body</i>
207MT	Mayo General Hospital Co. Mayo <i>Blood Transfusion Laboratory</i>

208MT	Rotunda Hospital Dublin 1 <i>Medical Testing Laboratory</i>
209MT	Mid-Western Regional Hospital Limerick Co. Limerick <i>Blood Transfusion Laboratory</i>
210MT	Letterkenny General Hospital Co. Donegal <i>Blood Transfusion Laboratory</i>

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Good Laboratory Practice

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