



World Accreditation Day

Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated each year on June 9th by **IAF**, **ILAC**, their members, partners and stakeholders in the conformity assessment community in acknowledgement of the benefits and value of accreditation.

WAD 2021 will highlight how accreditation and accredited conformity assessment activities support the implementation of the SDGs, a series of 17 goals adopted by United Nations member states as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **Public Sector Assurance** and **Business Benefits** website were updated to include categories to highlight the SDG case studies to support WAD.

INAB has published World Accreditation Day materials, including a joint statement, brochure and video on our [website](#).

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

ACCREDITATION

Supporting the implementation of the SDGs

09 JUNE 2021



National Accreditation Strategy

INAB is currently developing a national accreditation strategy, which will set out a roadmap for the future growth and direction of accreditation in Ireland over the next five years. We have engaged Grant Thornton to support us with the development of this national strategy.

The strategy will create a vision for accreditation in Ireland and define a strategic direction for INAB and accreditation in sectors of public and economic importance. It will aim to promote and build public confidence in the reliability of accreditation and enhance the brand recognition of INAB.

Work commenced in November 2020, with the project plan and resources in place. A project manager, John Spaight, was appointed and a project steering committee established with representatives from the HSA, INAB,

the INAB Board and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE). Significant stakeholder consultations have been completed with both national and international interested parties. The stakeholder engagement process also included a public consultation, where the public were invited to submit responses and feedback into the strategy.

An implementation roadmap will be defined within the strategy, which will include a detailed timeframe, set of actions, required budget and resources for each strategic priority identified.

The national accreditation strategy is scheduled for final approval in Q3 2021. Thank you to all our clients, assessors and stakeholder partners that took the time to provide valuable input into the consultation phase of the project.

Accreditation and SARS-CoV-2

INAB continues to perform assessments using online technology and full assessment teams, in most cases. In certain circumstances, an onsite assessment will be required and these can be discussed on an individual basis with your assessment manager.

As the economy and society reopen, INAB will work toward resuming site assessments in the near future.

INAB is reviewing its policy in terms of accreditation for SARS-CoV-2 testing and the latest version of [NF27](#) can be found on our website.

At the time of publication 8 laboratories had achieved accreditation for testing SARS-CoV-2 and INAB is open to receiving applications from both public and private laboratories for accreditation. If you wish to become accredited for SARS-CoV-2 testing, please send an email to inab@inab.ie.



Updated information on continuing to meet accreditation obligations can be found on the links below:

[ILAC Promotional Brochures International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation](#)

<https://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/joint-ilac-iaf-series/>

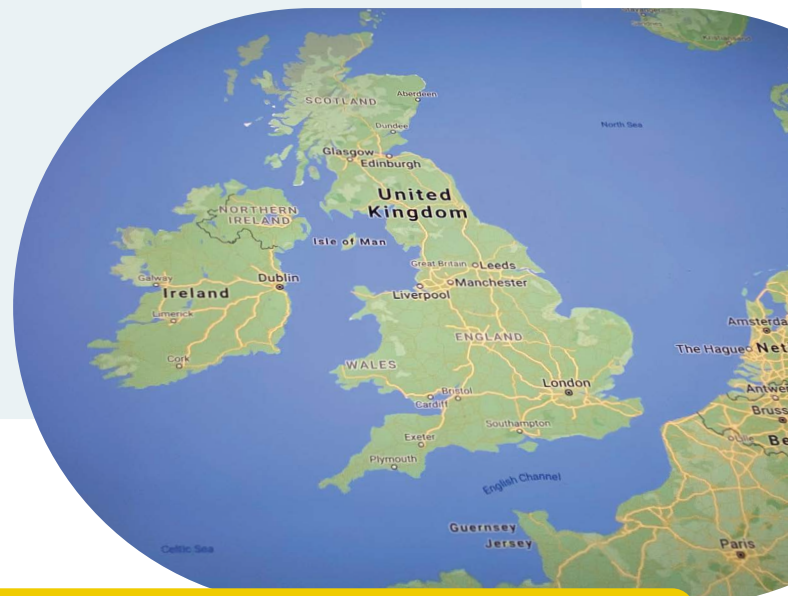
European Union trading relationship with the United Kingdom

With the end of the transition period on 31/12/2020, giving full effect to the UK's decision to leave the European Union, the new trading relationship between the EU and the UK comes into force. INAB continues to respond to queries in relation to the ongoing recognition of certificates and is available to provide support and advice to our clients and stakeholders on queries or issues arising on this matter.

INAB is aware of some issues with regard to supplies coming from the UK, particularly for laboratories and again encourage all clients to closely monitor and plan for any potential supply disruption.

The Brexit pages continue to be updated <https://www.inab.ie/latest-news/news/brexit-information.html> and the recordings from the webinar series in October 2020 remain available https://www.hsa.ie/eng/news_events_media/events/hsa_webinars/webinar_recordings/

The European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) has updated its notice on the membership of UKAS within EA and the EA MLA and it can be found <https://european-accreditation.org/ea-statement-on-continuing-recognition-of-ukas-under-the-ea-mla/>

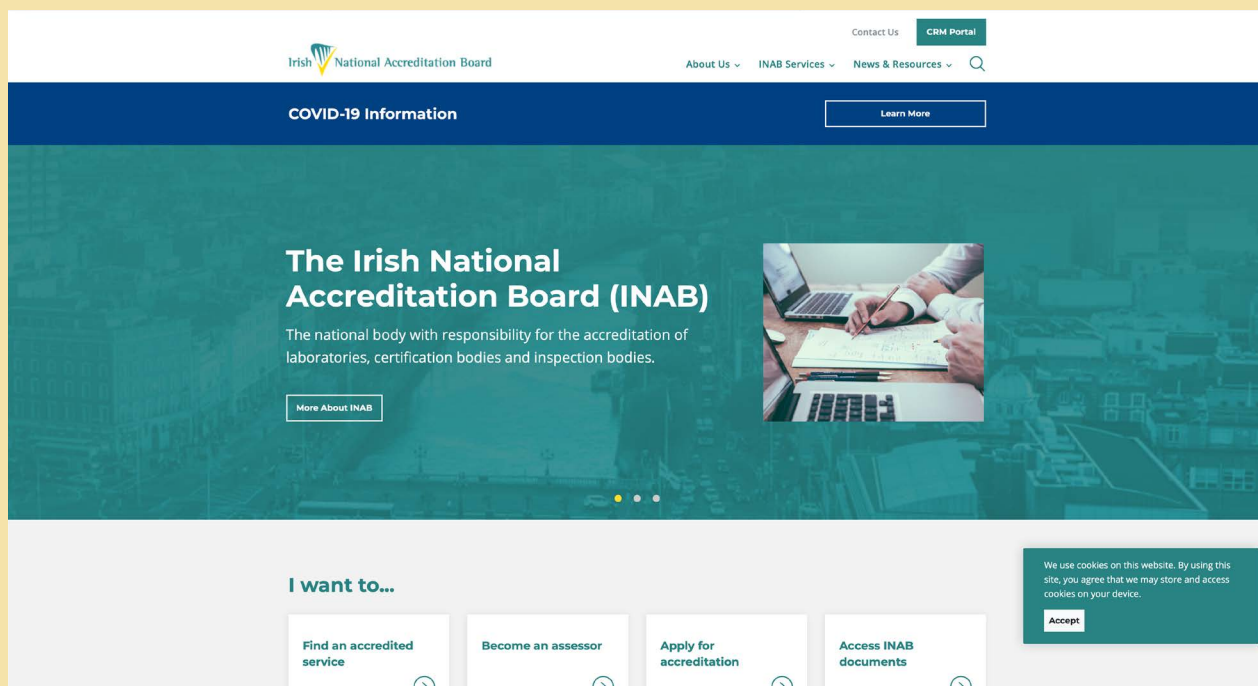


Update to INAB Website

In January 2021, INAB started a project to bring a much needed design update to our website.

A new responsive design, updated templates, re-organisation of our site structure and an upgrade to the content management system (CMS) have all contributed to a refreshed experience for users and visitors to www.inab.ie

The INAB website team included Orla Ivers as project lead, Joanne Coyle and Michelle Kelly as subject matter experts and Adrienne Duff as sponsor, and our colleague Hugh Jordan from the Authority's [HSA](#) Communications Unit. The new website went live on 29th April 2021.



INAB Clients – Setting the Standard – Call for Case Studies

As part of our 35th celebrations last year, INAB published [“INAB Clients – Setting the Standard”](#). It included profiles showcasing a sample of our Irish accredited conformity assessment bodies, and the importance of the accredited services they provide nationally and internationally.

INAB would like to offer our accredited CABs another opportunity to provide their own case study. Please follow the case study template used within the publication, and send to inab@inab.ie for consideration.



Scheduling visits for 2022

INAB plans our client's visits 5/6 months in advance of its scheduled date. The process of scheduling the 2022 assessments will commence shortly and will be planned as if taking place on-site in all cases.

Peer Evaluation 2022

INAB will undergo its Peer Evaluation from May 30th to June 3rd in 2022. These on-site evaluations confirm INAB's continued conformity to internationally accepted criteria. INAB is evaluated against ISO 17011, applicable EA, IAF and ILAC documents and is overseen by the EU Commission, the EA Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC) and national authorities.

INAB has identified a number of CABs that will be selected to be assessed during that week.

Click [here](#) for further information on INABs Multi-Lateral Agreements.

Scheduling Process

- Assessment Manager reviews their portfolio of CABs and identifies the required expertise/month for visit and informs the Scheduling unit
- Scheduling Unit – contacts all assessment team and based on their availability identifies a common date in and around the proposed assessment;
- Once agreed with the assessment team, the date and team is entered in the CRM by the Scheduling unit
- The CAB will be notified of the team and assessment date via CRM notification
- CAB will log into portal to accept the assessment date and team.

The INAB annual schedule of assessments is implemented over 12 months and visit dates are based on initial date of accreditation + 6 months and this is what we endeavour to follow as closely as possible.

Extension to scope applications must be made 6 months in advance and completed PS 10 documentation submitted 6-8 weeks in advance of the assessment date.

NEWS ON LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

BRID BURKE – SCHEME MANAGER

NEW FOR 2021

Accreditation of Biobanking according to ISO 20387

This scheme is formally opened for applicants from 1st April 2021. Click on Image for further details.



Biobanking - Information webinar

INAB organised an introductory webinar for any interested parties, in the area of Biobanking. This was held on Friday 23rd April 2021. The main topics covered were the accreditation process, mandatory requirements, implementation of the standard (ISO 20387) and verification of processes. The webinar recording is available on our [website](#).

Accreditation Medical Imaging services according to ISO 15189

INAB is preparing to offer an accreditation scheme in the area of medical imaging. ISO 15189 provides for the accreditation of these areas and we are currently assessing any interest in this area. There are other European accreditation bodies providing this service and so it may be of interest from an Irish perspective. This type of accreditation could apply to X-Ray, MRI, Ultrasound, diagnostic services etc. If you wish to express any interest, please contact brid.burke@inab.ie

NEWS ON LABORATORY ACCREDITATION (cont'd)

BRID BURKE – SCHEME MANAGER

Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee

Please see [here](#) for the membership of this committee. We welcome new members of the committee –

- **Dr. Susanna Frost**

Consultant Microbiologist, representative of the Irish Society for Clinical Microbiologists

- **Dr Rama Srinivasan**

Consultant Chemical Pathologist, representative of the Faculty of Pathology

At the April Meeting, a new policy on the format of the INAB scope for medical laboratories was discussed and agreed. It will be published and available from our website in June 2021.

New or Changed Technical Policies

There have been some new revisions to ILAC mandatory documents. These documents are available from the ILAC website - [here](#).

- ILAC P10: Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement results. This revised policy was issued in 2020 and the implementation date is July 2021.

- ILAC P 14: Policy for the Measurement of Uncertainty in Calibration. This policy was issued in 2020 with an implementation date of March 2021.

Please contact your INAB assessment manager for any queries you may have on these documents.

The new revision of ISO 15189 is currently at Committee Draft 2 (CD2) stage of commenting. We do not have a firm date for publication of this standard however, it is likely to be late 2021 / early 2022. We will keep you informed as we become aware of any developments.

EA Meeting

The European cooperation for Accreditation Laboratory Committee met virtually in March 2021. Some highlights and points to note:

- EA-4/02-Expression of uncertainty in Calibration is currently out for final comment and it is expected to be published in 2021.
- Revision of EA-4/18 Guidance on the level and frequency of Proficiency Testing Participation is also under revision, to be completed in 2021 also.

NEWS ON INSPECTION ACCREDITATION

SINEAD GUCKIAN – SCHEME MANAGER

Seminar on accreditation in the sector of Crime Scene Investigation

The [EA](#) online seminar on accreditation in the sector of Crime Scene Investigation was held on the 22nd March 2021. The seminar was organised in conjunction with ENFSI (European Network of Forensic Science Institutes) as part of the AFORE project “Accreditation of Forensic Laboratories in Europe”.

The aim of the seminar was to inform the EA Inspection and Laboratory Committees’ Members on:

- the forensic science process;
- the principles and importance of crime scene investigation;
- the benefits of accreditation of crime scene investigation.

Speakers included Josita Limborgh, Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI), - Personnel conducting crime scene

investigation; Monika Hilgert, Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) Germany, - Introduction to the forensic science process & Erika Skoogh, Swedish National Forensic Centre (NFC), - Benefits of accreditation of crime scene investigation.

The AFORE project (Accreditation of Forensic Laboratories in Europe) is an EU funded initiative (ISFP) and involves a range of activities related to the EC Action Plan for the creation of a European forensic science area.

These include developing a model for accreditation at crime scenes, training of forensic personnel on accreditation matters, and training of technical assessors and the development of new and updated best practice manuals across seven different forensic science areas. There are 40 different organisations involved with AFORE.

Accreditation Autopsy Services to ISO 17020

INAB is currently developing a scheme for accreditation of autopsy services to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2012. This is a voluntary scheme where organisations may apply to become accredited to ISO 17020 for the provision of autopsy services. Autopsy services are an accredited activity in a number of European countries in both hospital and forensic settings. Accreditation to ISO 17020 offers potential clients a means to have their service assessed and accredited by an independent third party. It ensures the service can be recognised internationally under the Multilateral Agreement between accreditation bodies, operating worldwide.

INAB accreditation ensures that staff who carry out services are competent and the equipment and facilities used are fit for purpose. Accreditation provides the user confidence that the service is a quality led and is capable of developing and maintaining a high calibre death investigation service for the communities and jurisdictions in which they operate.



This scheme is open to all hospital and standalone mortuary services and is open for applications. Please contact inab@inab.ie to register and request access to make an application through INABs online IT system – the INAB CRM. Click on the image for further details.

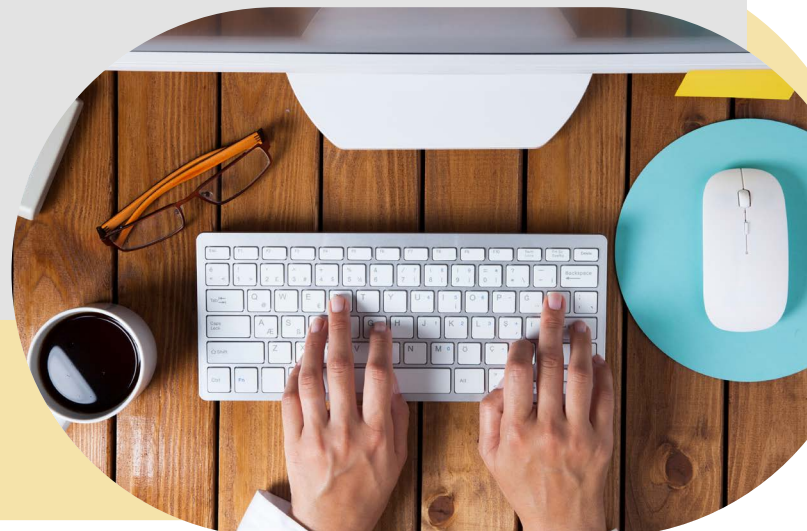
Notification on the implementation of ILAC P15:05/2020

ILAC P15:05/2020 Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies has been published (May 2020) and is available from <https://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-policy-series/>.

This document provides information for use by both accreditation bodies and inspection bodies on the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012.

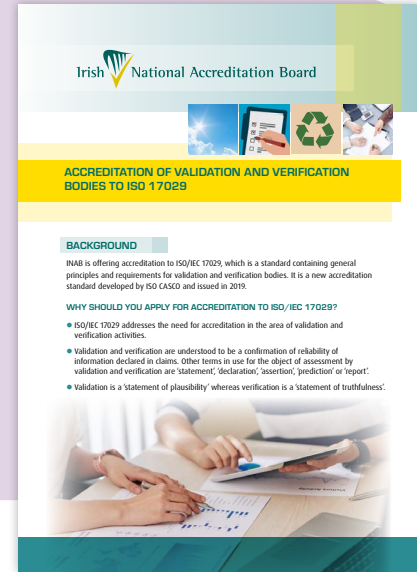
Accredited inspection bodies and those seeking accreditation will be expected to demonstrate that the relevant aspects have been considered.

INAB will look at awareness and implementation of this revised publication during routine surveillance activity. If you have any queries, please contact your assessment manager.



Accreditation of Validation and Verification bodies to ISO 17029

INAB has issued information material on ISO/IEC 17029 - Conformity assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies. There are a number of potential uses for this standard related to environmental labelling, product declarations, sustainability and many others. It is required that a sector specific programme (scheme) is in place prior to application. Click on the image for further details.



Amendment to ISO/IEC 27006:2015

The standard ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD1:2020 - Information technology - Security techniques - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems – Amendment 1, was published in March 2020. On 27 July 2020, IAF Members approved a resolution on ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD 1:2020 that the transition period will be two years from the last day of the month of publication of the amended standard and therefore the deadline for transition is March 2022. INAB will carry out assessments to the amended standard in 2021.

ISO/IEC 17024 Peer Evaluation

INAB underwent a peer evaluation for extension of its [EA MLA](#) scope to include ISO/IEC 17024. The evaluation involved a two-person team and a positive recommendation was received. The EA Multilateral Agreement Committee will now consider the report prior to a formal decision being taken.

EA – 2/17 M:2020: EA policy on accreditation for notification purposes

INAB has issued a notification on the implementation of EA-2/17 M:2020 (NF 31). This is an EA document concerning accreditation for notification purposes. It is a procedural document with mandatory status. The document specifies the preferred accreditation standards for notification purposes and as no Irish notifying authority has established different requirements, the preferred standards given in EA-2/17 are mandatory standards in the context of INAB accreditation.

Some CABs accredited by INAB will have to move wholly or partially to a different accreditation standard and it is a requirement to comply by **April 2023**.

NF31 is available [here](#).

Transition Deadlines

Deadlines for transition to ISO 50001:2018 and migration to ISO 45001:2018 were extended by six months. Details can be found on the IAF website under FAQs related to COVID-19 using the following link: <https://iaffaq.com/>

EA and IAF Meetings

The 41st meeting of the EA Certification Committee took place remotely on the 24th and 25th March 2021 and the IAF mid-term meetings were conducted remotely during April and May 2021.



Expressions of Interest: INAB Technical Experts/ Technical Assessors

The Irish National Accreditation Board welcomes expressions of interest from experts seeking to provide contracted professional technical services to INAB in support of its accreditation programmes. Expertise demand will vary from time to time.

INAB has an immediate need for and welcomes contact from potential assessors or technical experts in the following sectors:

Calibration laboratory accreditation

- Temperature, pressure, force, mass, volume, torque and density.

Test laboratory accreditation

- Construction materials testing
- Chemical testing (drugs/drug residue analysis, food (including GMOs))
- Forensics - Drug analysis, equine, veterinary and pharmaceutical sectors

Medical test laboratory accreditation

Medically qualified experts in:

- Microbiology/virology/serology
- Blood transfusion science
- Haematology
- Audiology

Certification

- Sustainable farming
- Aquaculture (Biovalves)
- GDPR

The full range and scope of INAB activities is documented on the website www.inab.ie

Candidates should have a third level qualification and more than 5 years' experience working in the applicable sector. Formal assessor training and previous experience working with an accreditation body would be a distinct advantage, but there may be vacancies for technical experts who may not have training in the relevant accreditation standard. If interested in becoming an assessor please consult the assessor section on our website [here](#).

A formal qualification procedure is in place and all applicants will be evaluated against documented criteria and current demand.



INAB Accreditations Awarded In 2021

Currently INAB has 3 new accreditations awarded in 2021. Click [here](#) for further information. To see the full directory of accredited bodies click [here](#).

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Staff Update

INAB Welcome new Administration staff

Clare Parker

Joined INAB in May 2021

We are delighted to announce the newest member of staff to INAB, Clare Parker. Clare, joined our admin team on 18th May 2021. Clare will be involved in the scheduling of your visits along with Vanessa Dowling. Clare will be also involved in other administrative responsibilities to support the accreditation process.



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The INAB newsletter is only available electronically, click [here](#) to subscribe. If you would like to unsubscribe, at any time, please email inab@inab.ie.



INAB is part of the HSA