



FUTURE GROWTH OF INAB AND ACCREDITATION

National strategy for accreditation

Work has been ongoing on the development of Ireland's first National Strategy for Accreditation.

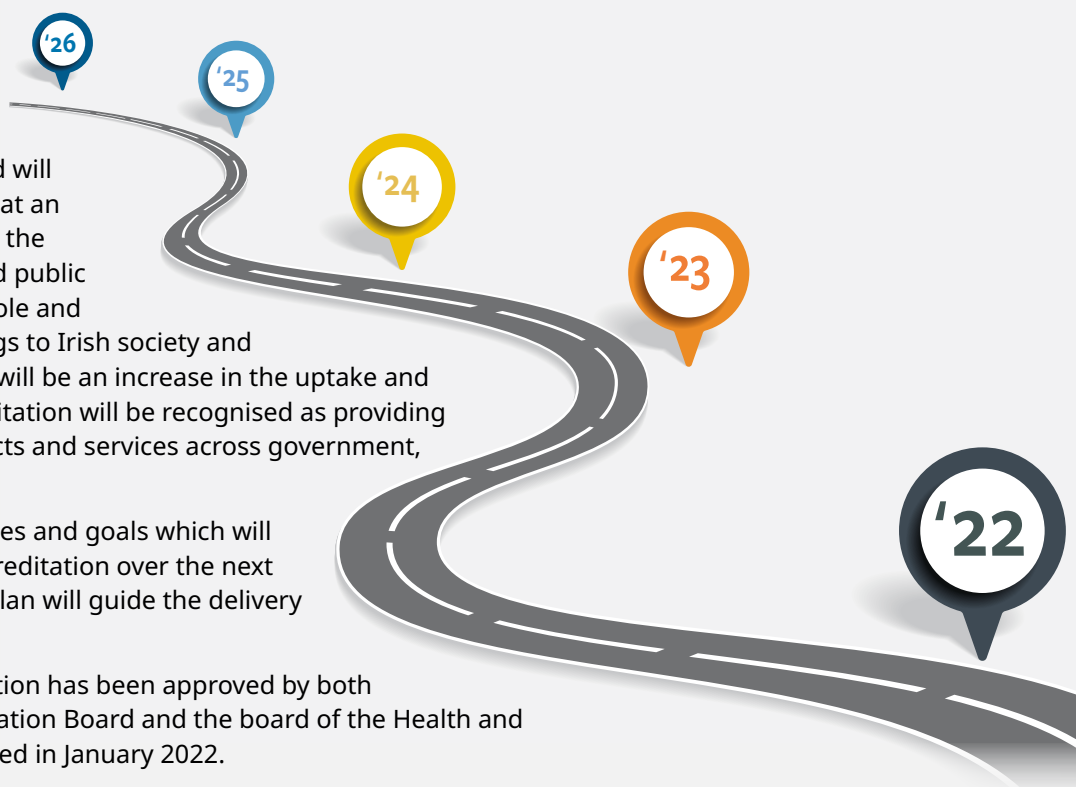
The strategy will set out a roadmap for how the benefits of accreditation, including enabling trade,

boosting productivity, protecting the public and enhancing policy and regulation, will be further realised by the Irish economy and society over the next five years.

The strategy will encompass a strategic vision to ensure that accreditation will be positioned as a positive influence in national policy decision-making and will strongly support Ireland's interests at an EU and international level. Through the delivery of this strategy, widespread public recognition and awareness of the role and the benefits that accreditation brings to Irish society and economy will be created and there will be an increase in the uptake and application of accreditation. Accreditation will be recognised as providing trust and confidence in Irish products and services across government, industry and consumers.

The strategy will include key priorities and goals which will direct the National Strategy for Accreditation over the next five years and an implementation plan will guide the delivery of these.

The National Strategy for Accreditation has been approved by both the board of Irish National Accreditation Board and the board of the Health and Safety Authority and will be published in January 2022.



COVID UPDATE



Onsite Assessments

From January 2022, all INAB assessments will be on site with full teams, subject to public health guidelines.

INAB is performing a blend of remote and on site assessments to the end of 2021; the assessment manager will provide the detail on this.

Laboratories accredited by INAB for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing

INAB provides accreditation of laboratories performing SARS-CoV-2 testing.

INAB has received multiple applications/extensions to scope requests for testing or sampling for SARS-CoV-2 and has accredited several Irish laboratories. As the demand for testing and the number of providers continues to grow, the need for public confidence in SARS-CoV-2 testing remains as important as ever. Laboratories accredited for SARS-CoV-2 testing are highlighted with an asterisk (*) in our [Directory](#).

See here for further information on [Accreditation for SARS-CoV-2\(COVID-19\) testing](#).

INAB PEER EVALUATION 2022

According to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 'Setting out the requirements for accreditation relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) 339/93,' the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) is obliged to operate a peer evaluation system of its members.

So, every four years, to confirm its status as a signatory to the [EA multilateral agreement](#), INAB undergoes a peer evaluation. It is conducted by a team of evaluators from other accreditation bodies within EA, sometimes including associate EA members from slightly further afield than mainland Europe.

Evaluators are highly qualified and experienced national accreditation body staff members. They attend regular training programs in order to maintain their evaluator competence and to support the necessary development of EA peer evaluation activities, including evolution of standards and regulations.

Performance of EA evaluators is monitored by the EA Secretariat on a continual basis.

INAB's next evaluation will take place from 30th May to 3rd June 2022, with a team of evaluators from Portugal, Italy, Tunisia, Finland, Spain, Austria, Denmark, Slovakia and Turkey, covering all of INAB's MLA scope, which includes ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17024, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 17034 and ISO/IEC 17065 activities.

The main objectives of peer evaluation activities are:

- To evaluate INAB's ongoing compliance with Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, ISO 17011:2017 and related criteria such as those in mandatory documents from [EA](#), [ILAC](#) and [IAF](#); and
- To ensure that regulators, stakeholders and the business community have confidence in the certificates and reports issued by INAB's accredited conformity assessment bodies under the EA MLA.

Global recognition is achieved by regular evaluations of EA by its colleagues from IAF and ILAC.

Peer evaluations are planned about 12 months in advance, because a key part of the evaluation involves witnessing INAB performing its assessments. INAB is working with conformity assessment bodies in all of the disciplines mentioned above to be sure that the assessments take place within the tight timescales imposed by the week-long evaluation. INAB would like to thank all of these clients and assessors for their cooperation and willingness to help INAB achieve a successful outcome.

NEWS ON INSPECTION ACCREDITATION

SINEAD GUCKIAN – SCHEME MANAGER

Accreditation of Autopsy Service

INAB is open for application for accreditation of autopsy services, to ISO/IEC 17020.

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 is an independent, technical and quality system assessment. It provides confidence that the service is capable of delivering a high-calibre death investigation service for the communities in which they operate. INAB accreditation ensures that staff are competent and the equipment, facilities and processes used are fit for purpose and meet best practice. INAB currently accredits public and private medical testing laboratories to ISO 15189 for histology and accreditation of post mortem services according

to ISO/IEC 17020 could be an extension of the quality management system into this area.

This is a voluntary scheme. To find out more contact Sinéad Guckian: 01 614 7014.

sinead.guckian@inab.ie

Accreditation of Vehicle Inspection Services

INAB has issued a new publication “Why become an accredited vehicle inspection body?”

There are a number of opportunities for vehicle inspection services to avail of accreditation.

INAB currently accredit a number of organisations including those for the carriage of dangerous goods by road and the NCT vehicle inspection programme.

If you are interested in inspection accreditation for vehicles please see our [latest publication](#) – that provides the benefits of accreditation, who can apply and how to apply?



EA Inspection Committee (EA IC)

The 41st meeting of the European Co-Operation for Accreditation Inspection Committee was conducted remotely on the 30th of September 2021. Items discussed included the application of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of crime scene investigation (CSI) and remote inspection techniques. The results from a recent AFORE (Accreditation of Forensic Laboratories in Europe) survey were presented. AFORE is an EU based funding initiative aimed to stimulate accreditation of forensic service providers. The results show that of the 33 countries that responded the majority have plans to implement a quality management system. AFORE are currently drafting a best practice manual for a European model for accreditation of Crime Scene Investigation.

A case study on the use of remote inspection techniques in accredited inspections was presented. Remotely operated vehicles (ROV) can aide in an inspection and the use of such systems can reduce inspection costs while eliminating the risks associated with the use of people to complete the task. It is expected there may be an increase in requests for accreditation of such inspection methods in the future. An EA IC Workshop was held on the 1st October. The workshop focused on calibration, in-service and intermediate checks and verification in the field of inspection.

ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation for Crime Scene Investigation

The quality of crime scene work is critical to all judicial systems. It is increasingly recognised that the quality of personnel, processes and procedures used at crime scenes is just as important as assuring quality in forensic laboratory testing activities. INAB accreditation has underpinned quality assurance of forensic analysis for almost 20 years, ensuring confidence in analysis of samples and results produced in the laboratory. However the examination of and collection of materials from crime scenes has not been covered by accreditation.

Over recent years, there has been much discussion about the accreditation of crime scene investigation.



NEWS ON INSPECTION ACCREDITATION (cont'd)

SINEAD GUCKIAN – SCHEME MANAGER

ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation for Crime Scene Investigation Cont'd

The European co-operation for Accreditation has selected ISO/IEC 17020 Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection as the most appropriate standard for accrediting crime scene investigations.

Accreditation demonstrates the technical competence and the impartiality and integrity of the organisations offering scene of crime investigation services. Accredited examination and collection of materials from crime

scenes can provide additional confidence in the integrity and chain of custody of the materials being collected supporting public trust that forensic activities are carried out impartially and competently.

INAB are open for applications for accreditation of Crime Scene Investigation to ISO/IEC 17020.

To discuss the accreditation of crime scene investigation, please contact Sinead Guckian: 01 614 7014 sinead.guckian@inab.ie

NEWS ON CERTIFICATION ACCREDITATION

JAMES STAPLETON – SCHEME MANAGER

EA Certification Committee (EA CC)

The EA Certification Committee held its autumn meeting remotely on the 28 and 29 September 2021. The meeting included a discussion on questions submitted by EA CC members. These questions are published on the [EA](#) website under the FAQ section. Work is ongoing at [IAF](#) level on a new mandatory document for the approval of conformity assessment schemes.

The meeting included a workshop on witnessing for ISO/IEC 17021-1 what assessors would expect to see regarding justification for a reduced programme. Factors generally noted included: indications gathered via IAF MD15:2014 IAF Mandatory Document for the Collection of Data to Provide Indicators of Management System Certification Bodies' Performance; office assessment; complaints; performance during witnessing; locations; criticality of scopes; and regulatory factors.

A new working group is to be formed to address ISO/IEC 17029. Other working groups coming under the EA CC include those on food, environment and ICT. There is also a network group for matters related to EU Emissions Trading Scheme.



Accreditation for bodies operating Certification of Persons to ISO/IEC 17024

INAB have issued a new publication ISO/IEC 17024 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons.

This standard is used by accreditation bodies accrediting certification bodies undertaking certification of persons.

A certification body awarded accreditation to ISO/IEC 17024 means it is competent to certify persons for a specific scope.

INAB has accredited a number of bodies to this standard certifying persons in the areas of non-destructive testing, welding, gas appliance installation and security.

For more information on this standard and how to apply click [here](#).

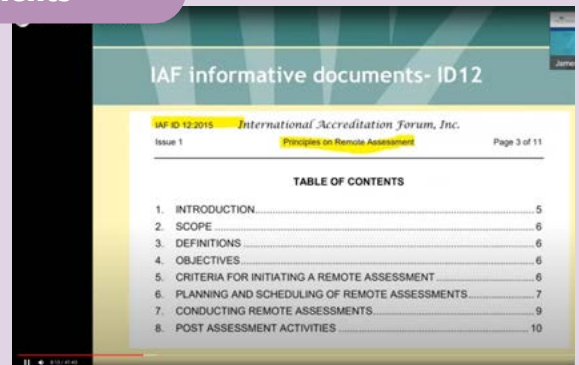


NEWS ON CERTIFICATION ACCREDITATION (cont'd)

JAMES STAPLETON – SCHEME MANAGER

INAB Webinar - IAF Informative and Mandatory Documents

INAB held a webinar on 15 October 2021 that gave an overview of the [IAF](#) and the applicable informative and mandatory documents. It also dealt briefly with other documents used for accreditation purposes, such as EA and INAB documents. The webinar was recorded and can be accessed from the [HSA](#) and [INAB](#) websites.



NEWS ON LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

BRID BURKE – SCHEME MANAGER

Accreditation of Biobanking according to ISO 20387

This scheme remains open for any applications for accreditation in the area of Biobanking. INAB held an information webinar in April 2021 on this topic and if you wish to listen to this webinar it's available on our [website](#).

Please contact Brid Burke - (01) 614 7019. brid.burke@inab.ie for more information.

Accreditation Medical Imaging services according to ISO 15189

INAB will offer an accreditation scheme in the area of medical imaging, from January 2022. ISO 15189 provides for the accreditation of these areas. This type of accreditation could apply to diagnostic services such as X-Ray, MRI, ultrasound etc.

Please contact Brid Burke - (01) 614 7019. brid.burke@inab.ie for more information.

New or changed technical policies

INAB will issue a new policy in January 2022 on calculated methods - PS36 Policy Statement on calculated methods.

The purpose of this new document is to clarify the INAB process for accreditation and reporting of methods involving calculations. A laboratory shall apply for accreditation for these types of tests in the same manner as with other test methods on their scope of accreditation. Assessment of these test methods shall be completed in the same manner as the normal assessment processes in place (on site during surveillance visits, by correspondence, or added

on using a flexible scope system if the laboratory is accredited for flexible scope).

Just a reminder that [PS34](#) - Policy Statement on scope format for Testing Laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 and [PS35](#) - Policy Statement on scope format for testing laboratories accredited to ISO 15189 updated/introduced earlier in 2021. These policies govern the formatting of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 scopes of accreditation. Please consult these policies and update your scope on the CRM as needed.

Please contact your INAB assessment manager for more information.

UPCOMING DIGITALIZATION SURVEY IN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES

Never has there been in time in recent history where businesses and organizations have had to rely so strongly on digitalization in the workplace. For this reason, INAB has been supporting a survey on digitalization which is being conducted jointly by the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung, the Technical University of Berlin (Chair of Innovation Economics), and the University of Canterbury. The aim of the survey to gain a better insight into the level of digitalization amongst conformity assessment bodies in Ireland. The survey will also investigate the motives, drivers and barriers to digitalization which are facing conformity assessment bodies today. Most interestingly, the survey will also investigate the impacts which Covid-19 has had with respect to the digitalization of conformity assessment bodies based in Ireland.

The survey is anonymized and also, open to all conformity assessment bodies. Participation in the survey is not mandatory but we do encourage you to take part as results from the survey will also be shared amongst participating conformity assessment bodies.

The results will provide the conformity assessment body with an insight into their own level of digitalization and

a comparison between their own systems and those of their competitors. The results from the survey will be shared amongst participating conformity assessment bodies before the official publishing of the study.



INAB are currently working alongside the participating partners on the final review of survey questions. It is envisioned that the survey will be finalized and sent to conformity assessment bodies before the end of 2021 by INAB. If you have any queries relating to the study, please contact joanne.coyle@inab.ie.

INAB CLIENTS SETTING THE STANDARD – INVITATION TO CABS TO PROMOTE THEIR ACCREDITATION

INAB are providing an opportunity for more accredited clients to include their profile in the brochure "[INAB Clients – Setting the Standard](#)".

In 2020, INAB created this online brochure to **promote our clients** and the importance of accreditation. It currently includes 29 profiles of our accredited clients.

If you are interested in being included in the revision for 2022 – please email inab@inab.ie by January 10th 2022.



INAB TO HOST ASSESSOR WEBINAR

INAB will host a half-day webinar for our assessors on February 24th 2022. Participation at the webinar ensures that active and new assessors benefit from an open platform, where discussions on INAB policy issues take place and with the opportunity to further harmonise the accreditation process. INAB currently hold this forum every two years – this will be the first time we will run it virtually.



INAB WEBINARS AND PODCASTS

INAB's first podcast features our own Assessment Manager Remco Klop discussing accreditation and the benefits. This is part of a series of podcasts being run by the Health and Safety Authority.

You can listen to it [here](#).

INAB has hosted a series of webinars – which are all available on our [website](#).

Webinars & Podcasts

Links to recent and upcoming INAB Webinars

15th October 2021; IAF Informative and Mandatory Documents



11th June 2021; ISO/IEC 17020 and application of P15



23rd April 2021; Accreditation according to ISO 20387



1st October 2020; Brexit - Implications for Accreditation



Links to INAB Podcasts

Accreditation – an overview and the benefits



INAB SOCIAL MEDIA

INAB as part of Health and Safety Authority (HSA), communicate and promote INAB using the [HSA](#) social media platforms. We use these platforms to announce new accreditations, publications, accreditation news, career opportunities etc. Feel free to share, like and retweet our posts.



HEALTH AND SAFETY
AUTHORITY



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

Experts in calibration in the following fields:

- Electrical
- Time
- Frequency
- Temperature

Test laboratories

Experts in:

- Construction materials testing
- Microbiology (food and water)
- Chemical testing (drugs/drug residue analysis including veterinary drugs, food (including GMOs))
- Mechanical testing of materials
- Entomology/Nematology

Medical test laboratories

Medically qualified experts in:

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

Certification/inspection bodies

Experts in:

- Sustainable farming
- Aquaculture (Bivalves)
- GDPR
- ATEX related activities

IT

- Experts in information security, ideally with experience of laboratory accreditation/LIMS

Notified bodies

Experts dealing with:

- A range of construction materials under the Construction Products Regulation
- ATEX directive

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 Points of Contact



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– Inspection Body Accreditation

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New Staff

Louise Farrell

Strategy and Operations Manager

As Strategy and Operations Manager, Louise, alongside the Programme Manager, will drive the national accreditation strategy as well as support the overall operation and direction of INAB.

The role forms part of the management team and as such, Louise will participate in the overall development and implementation of the Authority's and the national accreditation strategy in the relevant work areas.

Louise has over 17 years' experience of legislation interpretation, developing integrated risk and compliance management systems, leading projects and training inspection and compliance teams.

Welcome back



Emma McGrane

Senior Assessment Manager

Emma McGrane returned to INAB in September 2021 to her role as senior assessment manager. Emma will manage a portfolio of applicant and accredited ISO15189 & ISO/IEC 17025 clients.



Bord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú
Irish National Accreditation Board

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