



Bord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú Irish National Accreditation Board



WHY BECOME AN ACCREDITED VEHICLE INSPECTION BODY?

The inspection services provided by organisations throughout Ireland are an essential part of ensuring the operational safety of many items used by the public in their daily lives. Accreditation is a means of determining the technical competence, independence and impartiality of organisations that carry out specific inspection activities.

To become accredited, organisations must demonstrate to INAB that they have the necessary competence to perform specified tasks.

Inspection body accreditation is a formal means of demonstrating the technical competence of the inspection body to perform specific types of inspections, thereby providing a ready means for customers to gain confidence in the quality of inspection services they will receive.

INAB currently accredits a number of vehicle inspection bodies including an organisation inspecting for the carriage of dangerous goods by road and the NCT vehicle inspection programme in Ireland.



WHO CAN BECOME ACCREDITED?

INAB can provide accreditation to government or private inspection bodies including organisations that are independent operators or part of large multi-disciplinary organisations. An organisation can have all or part of its inspection activities accredited. Accreditation can be provided to a range of facilities including permanent facilities, remote field operations, and inspection of temporary operations.

WHY BECOME ACCREDITED?

Accreditation benefits inspection bodies by allowing them to determine whether they are performing their work correctly and to appropriate standards and provides them with a benchmark for maintaining that competence. Many inspection bodies operate in isolation from their peers, and rarely receive independent technical evaluation as a measure of their performance.

INAB publishes a directory of accredited inspection bodies, which includes contact details plus information on their inspection capabilities. Accreditation is an effective marketing tool for organisations, and is often a prerequisite to submit tenders to clients that require independently verified technical competence and consistently reliable inspection reports.

Accreditation is the preferred mechanism recognised by government for ensuring public confidence in the reliability of activities. Many industries and regulations specify accreditation for suppliers of inspection services. Accreditation is the “passport” for international trade based on multilateral agreements.

Accreditation reduces risk for regulators, businesses and their customers by assuring that accredited CABs are competent to



carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation.

WHAT DOES ACCREDITATION INVOLVE?

The assessment process involves the use of technical specialists who assess the specific types of inspection being performed.

Assessment criteria are based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection, which is used for assessing inspection bodies throughout the world. This involves a thorough assessment of all the elements of an inspection body that contribute to the production of accurate and reliable inspection reports, including:

- technical competence of staff (including qualifications, training and experience)
- appropriateness of inspection methods
- the use of suitable equipment (properly calibrated and maintained)
- safeguards to ensure impartiality and confidentiality
- code of conduct and processes for working safely
- effective quality assurance procedures

Specialist technical assessors conduct a thorough evaluation of all factors in an inspection body's operation that affect the production of reliable inspection results. At the end of the assessment by INAB, a report is presented to the inspection body, highlighting any areas that require attention and corrective action before the inspection body can be recommended for accreditation.

Once accredited, the inspection body undergoes annual surveillance visits to ensure its continued conformity to requirements, and to check that its quality system is maintained.

AREAS THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM ACCREDITATION

INAB currently accredit a number of organisations including those for the carriage of dangerous goods by road and the NCT vehicle inspection programme in Ireland that falls under the EU Directive 2014/45. The primary aim of this programme is to improve road safety and enhance environmental protection by reducing harmful vehicles emissions in Ireland.

Other opportunities for accreditation include:

- Accreditation of inspection services for commercial vehicles. These vehicles can include light vans and commercial jeeps, large vans, rigid trucks and articulated trucks.

- Accreditation of inspection services for vehicles and trailers. These vehicles include small car trailers, larger car trailers, and trailer caravans.
- Roadworthiness testing for agricultural tractors and trailers, the use of which mainly takes place on public roads.
- Accreditation of inspection services for special purpose vehicles e.g. motor caravans, armoured vehicles, ambulances and mobile cranes.
- Accreditation of inspection services for vehicle modifications: any changes made to a vehicle's original design, as built by the manufacturer, are considered a modification. Modifications made must be carried out to an appropriate safety standard and assessed by a suitably qualified individual.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Accreditation is open to all organisations performing conformity assessment inspections.

Please contact inab@inab.ie to register and make an application through the CRM system.

HOW TO APPLY?

Full details on the accreditation process can be found [here](#)

CONTACT US

To find out more about this accreditation standard, contact Sinead Guckian



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IRISH NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD

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AUTHORITY

INAB is part of the HSA