



GHG EMISSIONS TRADING

Brid Burke – Accreditation Officer

As most of us are keenly aware, global climate change is the primary environmental challenge of this century.

The European Union is taking the lead in this regard with the adoption of climate change strategies, including the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The EU has agreed to reduce its GHG emissions by an overall 8%. Ireland's target in this area is to limit increases to 13% above 1990 levels by the end of the reporting period 2008-2012.

In order to achieve this, the EU has implemented an 'EU emissions trading scheme'. This scheme is similar to a 'cap and trade' system. The EPA is the competent authority in Ireland responsible for issuing GHG allocations to operators involved in the EU emissions trading scheme. Each operator, on a yearly basis, submits an independently verified statement of emissions to the EPA. The verifiers used to verify these statements of emissions must be accredited by INAB or an equivalent (European co-operation for accreditation (EA)) accreditation body.

In 2008, as this is the second reporting period for the EU emissions trading scheme, the Commission has issued revised monitoring and reporting guidelines for all operators and verifiers (Commission decision of 18/VII/2007). These revised guidelines reflect a maturing scheme and implements changes from learning in the initial pilot phase of the scheme. The main changes include:

- More accurate determination requirements of fuel/material properties.
- Some exemptions for operators with lower emissions.
- Increased emphasis on uncertainty analysis.
- 'Fall back' approach introduced for those industries where it is unreasonable to meet tier 1 requirements, where they may have specific customised monitoring methodology, etc.
- Improved clarification on verification requirements.
- Adjustments in tier requirements/definitions.

For further information http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/mrg_en.htm

INAB is in the process of assessing all of its accredited verification bodies to the requirements of these revised monitoring and reporting guidelines and this process will continue on a yearly basis over the reporting period. EA has revised its guidance document for verifiers in accordance to these changes in the monitoring and reporting guidelines, this document will be available by August 2008 from the EA website www.european-accreditation.org.

INAB AND THE ADR AGREEMENT

Pat O'Brien – Accreditation Officer

Ireland, together with Malta and Montenegro are recent signatories to the ADR agreement. ADR means the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road.

This international agreement allows for dangerous goods travelling by road through more than one country to be exempt from the domestic legislation in force in that country, so long as the requirements set out in the ADR Agreement is fully implemented.

The current EU regulations originate from the 2004 ADR regulations. Ireland implements the requirements for Carriage of dangerous Goods (ADR) under Statutory Instrument S.I. 288 of 2007 requiring consignors and carriers of dangerous goods within Ireland to follow the provisions of ADR.

A number of competent bodies are involved in the implementation of this agreement as follows:

- **INAB** is appointed as competent authority with respect to accreditation of inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) under ADR.
- **Road Safety Authority** is appointed with respect to technical examination of vehicle and the issue of certificates of approval.
- **NSAI** with respect to such inspections relating to compliance with requirements of the construction and testing of receptacles, tanks, and tank containers, design type testing and approval of packaging and the design type testing of intermediate bulk containers.
- **Minister for Justice Equality and Law Reform** with respect to carriage by road of explosives of ADR Class 1.
- **RPII** in respect to matters relating to carriage by road of radioactive materials, ADR Class 7.
- **National Roads Authority** with respect to the carriage by road of dangerous goods of the ADR through tunnels.
- **The Health and Safety Authority** has responsibility for all other functions to be performed under the ADR.

In 2006 Hibernian Engineering became the first organisation to be awarded accreditation by INAB as an Inspection Body accredited to carry out both periodic and intermediate inspection of LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) tankers (Class 2) carried out under ADR.

INAB envisages further inspection bodies applying for accreditation as Inspection Bodies under ADR.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OECD WORKING GROUP MEETING ON GLP

Marie O'Mahony – Accreditation Officer

Marie O'Mahony represented INAB at the OECD working Group meeting on GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) held in Italy on the 8th-9th April 2008. The key objective of this Working Group is to facilitate and support member countries and interested non-member economies in the implementation of the relevant OECD Council Acts relating to MAD (Mutual Acceptance of Data) in the assessment of chemicals. It also oversees the continuing programme of on-site evaluations on National GLP Compliance Monitoring programmes.

Details of the new on-site evaluation programme and the schedule of activities for 2008 was presented to the Group for agreement. Progress reports from developing GLP compliance monitoring programmes in a number of member and non-member countries were presented for information. A number of technical issues were tabled for discussion and the Netherlands GLP Monitoring Programme presented its findings on a survey it carried out on the status and use of consensus and advisory documents in other member countries. A new Chair (Finland) and Vice-Chair (New Zealand) were elected and the next meeting has been scheduled for April/May 2009.

EA MAC COMMITTEE

Marie O'Mahony – Accreditation Officer



**European
co-operation for
Accreditation**

Marie O'Mahony represented INAB at the EA MAC (Multilateral recognition Agreement Committee) meeting in Warsaw on the 2nd and 3rd April 2008. This Committee is responsible for the management of the EA peer evaluation process of EA Accreditation Bodies. Peer re-evaluation reports on 5 existing Accreditation Body MLA signatories and initial evaluation reports of two applicant Accreditation Bodies were considered by the Committee.

Progress reports from a further 5 Accreditation Bodies were discussed and 1 new application for membership was reviewed. Two task force groups of the Committee also presented their reports dealing with issues relating to revision of EA Multilateral Agreement policy and procedure documents and accreditation of branch offices of conformity assessment bodies. A report on the status of evaluations planned, in progress and completed was also presented to the Committee. The next meeting has been scheduled for 1st and 2nd October 2008.

OECD EVENT ATTENDED BY INAB COMPLIANT TEST FACILITIES

Italy – 10th and 11th April 2008

Two GLP facilities, Life Scientific Ltd and Charles River Laboratories, give their views on the 2 day conference.

Nicola Mitchell Managing Director of Life Scientific Ltd recently attended the OECD Event "The implementation of the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice" in Villa Tuscolana Frascati (Rome). The symposium aimed at providing an open forum where the public and private sector could informally meet and discuss current Good Laboratory Practice, focusing on issues of interest to all partners involved. An important outcome from the event was the promotion of better co-operation among monitoring authorities, regulatory authorities and test facilities and the achievement of a better understanding and interaction among the partners. Nicola was delighted to attend interesting sessions such as "GLP 30 Years on: Challenges for industry" and "critical aspects regarding the application of the GLP principles to new compounds such as biotechnology products".

The event was a fantastic opportunity to speak to other analytical chemistry test facilities, to understand their individual approaches to test item accountability and a clear emphasis on traceability and integrity.

It was also the perfect setting to gather opinions on certain elements of GLP, multi-site versus single site studies, FDA versus EPA and the concept of test item characterization to GLP to name a few. Nicola commented on the excellent clear and open presentations giving complete transparency in such an important forum. Overall Nicola was very impressed by this friendly, progressive and obviously hugely functional subset of OECD which provided an excellent networking environment in a marvellous setting. Life Scientific Ltd is a member of the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) compliance programme.

Ann Murray, Quality Manager – Charles River Laboratories Preclinical Services Ireland Ltd. Ann was pleased to attend the recent OECD event in Frascati, Italy, representing Charles River Laboratories Preclinical Services Ireland Ltd., at what is hoped will be a regular meeting of the regulatory authorities, monitoring authorities and test facilities.

Charles River Laboratories Preclinical Services Ireland Ltd. is located in Co. Mayo, and is a GLP compliant Contract Research Organisation, which carries out a wide range of testing.

As a test facility representative, Ann found this a very useful forum, where the perspectives of all participating groups were presented. The subsequent discussions and debates proved lively and interesting. Subjects such as varying opinions of inspectors and requirements of different countries (despite harmonisation efforts!) provoked great debate. It also provided the opportunity to speak to inspectors and colleagues in an alternative environment, and overall it was a very positive and beneficial experience.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Sinead Guckian – Accreditation Officer



Sinead Guckian.

I joined the Irish National Accreditation Board as an Accreditation Officer in April 2006. I manage a portfolio of approximately 25 laboratories which are accredited to ISO 17025 & ISO 15189, involved in construction, food, water and medical testing. My work involves managing the accreditation process for each organisation from initial assessment through surveillance and to reassessment of the laboratories.

Prior to starting work with INAB I worked with Safefood which is one of the north-south bodies founded under the Belfast agreement. I was part of the 'lab link' team which was set up to promote scientific partnerships on the island. In practice this involved setting up laboratory training programmes, establishing and funding joint research projects and facilitating the laboratories to work together to enhance public health on the island of Ireland.

It was a big change for me when I started assessing with INAB, as both jobs involved work with laboratories, but from different angles. However, I still see my role as assisting people. Rather than "us and them" I view the accreditation process as one in which the assessment team and the laboratory both work together towards a common goal; accreditation for a particular scope. Interpreting the various standards and writing the quality and procedures manuals can be a challenging task for the laboratory. Implementing a new system is far from plain sailing either. Initially people can be a little overwhelmed by the documentation required. I find the pre-assessment visit very useful to meet the staff and dispel any reservations that people may have about the accreditation process.

Because of the size of the Irish market, there is little economic sense in employing an expert in each field on a permanent basis. Instead, INAB draws from a panel of experts in various fields for assessments. Many of these assessors also undertake work for their own national accreditation bodies such as UKAS and SWEDAC. Working with technical assessors from a variety of backgrounds is always interesting, and can even be quite fun. Although it can be a long journey from Dublin to Kerry if the assessor falls asleep on the drive!

I particularly enjoy the range of activities and variety in my job. My laboratory portfolio ranges from construction laboratories, food and water labs to medical testing, so it is always interesting and I learn something new at each visit. My own educational background is in Food Science and I studied at University College Dublin. I have also studied Computer

Science and completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Statistical Methods. My educational background, coupled with my experience, has given me a good grounding for the diversity of laboratories in my portfolio.

I find that the role of an Accreditation Officer is both challenging and worthwhile. It is challenging due to the fact that INAB continues to grow and experience demand for an ever increasing range of accreditation services. However I find it a very worthwhile role because I have the opportunity to meet many interesting people who have a commitment to doing quality work and to providing a quality service to their customers.

SWS AUDITING SERVICES LTD



SWS were awarded their Accreditation Certificate for Farm Inspection (9008) by Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Coughlan TD; for the provision of inspection services in accordance with Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme (BQAS).



Pictured (L-R): Jim O'Toole (SWS), Tom O'Neill (INAB Board), Finbarr Walsh (SWS), Emily Fitzgerald (SWS), Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Coughlan TD, John Carroll (SWS) and Vera Flynn (SWS).



ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2008

- 190T **Roadbridge Ltd**
Ballclough, Ballysheedy, Co. Limerick
Construction Materials Testing Laboratory
- 191MT **The Mater Private Healthcare Group**
Mater Private Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7
Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory
- 192MT **St Vincent's Hospital Healthcare Group**
St Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4
Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory
- 193T **Building Envelope Technologies Ltd**
Craanhill, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Environmental Testing of Buildings Testing Laboratory
- 194T **Southern Scientific Services Ltd**
Dunrine, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Chemical and Biological Testing Laboratory

METLAB INTERNATIONAL LTD



Metlab International Ltd, trading as Bodycote Metlab, were presented their accreditation certificate (187T) for their *Non-Destructive Testing and Construction Materials Testing Laboratory* in Ballygarvan, Co Cork.



Pictured (L-R): Jim Humphreys (Managing Director), Tony Gillam (INAB Assessor), Ray Hopwood (INAB Assessor) and Pat O'Brien (INAB Accreditation Officer).



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