

Accreditation of Inspection Bodies

IS-6

INAB accredits Inspection Bodies to the standard **ISO/IEC 17020:2012** “*Conformity assessment - Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*”. These Inspection Bodies have functions which include the examination of product, process, service, or installation or their design and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgement, with general requirements and subsequent reporting of results of these activities. These organisations perform inspections of, for example, inspection of pressurised gas cylinders, inspection of buildings for the presence of asbestos, lifts, hoists, cranes, electrical installations, escalators etc.

The requirement for the independence of inspection bodies may vary according to legislation and market needs. There may be a requirement to have inspections carried out by an Inspection Body having third party status i.e. that are independent relative to the seller/producer and purchaser. They generally perform inspection of facilities, equipment, installations etc. in respect of which the authorities have special regulations for safety reasons.

INAB applicant and accredited Inspection Bodies are required to implement in full the requirements of ISO 17020 and associated EA¹, IAF², ILAC³ and INAB mandatory documents, which may be accessed from the INAB website at www.inab.ie

Inspection Bodies are accredited in compliance with ISO 17020 for a defined range of activities and these are detailed in a scope of accreditation which is annexed to the organisation’s accreditation certificate. Inspection Bodies accredited by INAB perform inspections in areas such as engineering equipment, and asbestos. A directory of these scopes of accreditation is maintained by INAB and is available from the INAB website.

The process for the accreditation of Inspection Bodies is fully described in INAB Publication P7, also available from the INAB website.

Additional advice or information may be obtained by contacting the Irish National Accreditation Board Executive at The INAB Executive, Metropolitan Building, James Joyce Street, Dublin 1.

or Tel: (01) 614 7048, Fax:(01) 614 7125, e-mail: inab@inab.ie

¹ EA is the European Co-operation for Accreditation

² IAF is the International Accreditation Forum

³ ILAC is the International Accreditation Co-operation