

Code of Conduct for Assessment Teams conducting assessments for INAB

PS8

1) Definition

A Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) is body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation, for example, laboratory, inspection body, product certification body, management system certification body and personnel certification body (ISO/IEC DIS 17000 and ISO/IEC 17011 refers).

2) Policy

It is INAB policy to consistently provide its client organisations with a professional and effective accreditation service.

In order to deliver this high level of service it is essential that assessment teams display an appropriate level of professionalism, integrity and respect toward the INAB client Conformity Assessment Body at all times during the conduct of each on-site assessment / surveillance / re-assessment.

Assessors are also required to adhere to the specific points highlighted in the code of conduct below when carrying out visits to INAB client Conformity Assessment Bodies.

Be aware that you are representing INAB and where **you require** clarification of INAB policy or procedures **seek this clarification** in private with INAB.

Communicate with the organisation staff in a controlled, friendly and professional manner

Remain open-minded at all times and remember to both question and listen carefully

Present your findings in a calm, factual and tactful manner

In the event of a dispute, endeavour to resolve the issue in a calm courteous manner at the visit and always provide factual evidence to support your position. Should satisfactory resolution not be achieved document your findings and explain **INAB's appeal mechanism** to the client Conformity Assessment Body.

Remember that while general non-prescriptive advice may be given to the client Conformity Assessment Body, **such advice must not cross the line into consultancy.**

Pay attention to **the time schedule shown on the visit plan** and to time-management by ensuring that you focus at all times on the work in hand and that time-wasting techniques are not employed by the Conformity Assessment Body. **If it is discovered during the visit that additional time is required to complete the job then this should be provided for in a formal rather than an ad hoc manner.**

Remember that the purpose of the visit is to assess the competence of the client Conformity Assessment Body to carry out a specific range of activities. **The visit must not be used to demonstrate to the Conformity Assessment Body the assessment team's own knowledge**

Ensure mobile phones are switched off during visits (messages may be checked at lunchtime and after the closing meeting)

Ensure that direct contact with the Conformity Assessment Body **at any time other than during the visit** does not take place without prior approval from INAB. **Do not therefore provide the Conformity Assessment Body with your contact details or business card.**

Ensure that you review responses to non-conformances submitted by the client Conformity Assessment Body in a timely fashion and return completed F121 forms to INAB not later than 15 working days from receipt of responses to non-compliances.