The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB)\(^1\) is the national body in Ireland officially recognised Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008\(^2\) provide the legal framework for the provision of accreditation services for conformity assessment activities across Europe. The objective of the Regulation is to ensure that, within the European Union (EU), one accreditation certificate is sufficient for the whole territory of the EU. In accordance with the Regulation, where a conformity assessment body (CAB) requests accreditation, it shall do so with the national accreditation body of the Member State in which it is “established”\(^3\).

Under the Regulation, INAB may only properly accredit bodies that establish in Ireland. At this time however, INAB is not signatory to the EA or IAF multi-lateral agreements (MLAs) for accreditation to ISO 14065, due to an extended period of inactivity in this sector. The Multilateral Agreements is a signed agreement between the EA Members whereby the signatories recognize and accept the equivalence of the accreditation systems operated by the signing members, and also the reliability of the conformity assessment results provided by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by the signing members. It makes the objective ‘Accredited once, accepted everywhere’ effective.

Therefore, INAB is not currently in a position to provide accreditation to ISO 14065 at this time. In accordance with Regulation 765/2008, INAB has agreed with RvA, the accreditation body in the Netherlands that entities established in Ireland can obtain accreditation from RvA, in the short to medium term, after which time, the accreditation will transfer to INAB.

In that intervening period, INAB shall re-build its competence in this sector and apply for MLA recognition. INAB staff will accompany RvA assessment teams, over the duration of this arrangement.

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are aware of this arrangement.

For details on making applications for accreditation directly to RvA, please contact nieuweaanvragen@rva.nl and copy Adrienne.duff@inab.ie

Application forms are available at https://www.rva.nl/en/documents/application-forms

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\(^1\) INAB is part of the Health and Safety Authority


\(^3\) Established is not the same as registered for the purpose of INAB accreditation