



## INAB – CELEBRATING 21 YEARS IN ACCREDITATION



Mr Tom Dempsey,  
Manager of INAB

I am pleased to inform you that this year the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is twenty one years old and I would like to take this opportunity to reminisce with you about how accreditation has developed both in Ireland and internationally during these past twenty one years and to ponder what the future holds for accreditation.

annual on-site inspections while at the same time managing the growth in demand outlined below.

Food product certification continues to be a significant growth area of national importance principally as a result of BSE and Foot and Mouth outbreaks. As a result Irish food producers supplying the UK market are now required by British food retailers to have their food products certified to the British Retail Consortium (BRC) specification. In addition Irish food producers supplying to European markets are also required by European Food retailers to have their food products certified to meet EUREPGAP requirements.

In 2006 INAB expects to process further applications for accreditation of certification bodies providing Food Quality Assurance schemes for food products to international requirements such as the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and Eurepgap schemes as well as national food quality assurance schemes such as the Bord Bia and Bord Iascaigh Mhara schemes. Food product certification will therefore continue to be one of INAB's growth areas of activity for the immediate future. Furthermore the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has developed a new international standard ISO 22000 for food safety management and it is expected that over the next few years food retailers will also require accreditation for food products under this new food safety standard.

In addition the Department of Agriculture and Food has specified INAB accreditation for certification of organic farming activities in Ireland in accordance with the EU Directive on Organic Farming and it is anticipated that INAB will process a number of applications for this scheme over the next two to three years.

In 2005 INAB in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Environment established a new accreditation programme to underpin the implementation of the EU Greenhouse Gas emissions trading allowance scheme set out in Directive 2003/87/EC. This Directive takes into account the commitments established under the Kyoto Protocol and three organisations were granted accreditation as Greenhouse Gas verifiers in 2005. INAB anticipates that it will receive further applications for accreditation in this field as the scheme develops.

A new Energy Management standard I.S. 393 has been developed by The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in cooperation with Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) and other relevant stakeholders as a tool for organisations to take a systematic approach to the continual improvement of energy performance. Organisations adopting I.S. 393 will require third party certification bodies to certify that they are operating in compliance with I.S. 393. INAB is actively establishing and

### GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR ACCREDITATION IN IRELAND UP TO 2005

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) was established in 1985 (originally as the Irish Laboratory Accreditation Board ILAB) with the sole function of accrediting testing and calibration laboratories. In 1991 INAB was given an additional function as the statutory body for the EU Good Laboratory Practice compliance programme (GLP) Regulation.

Between 1985 and 1995 INAB accredited 50 laboratories under its laboratory accreditation programme and approved one test facility under the GLP programme. From 1995 to 2005 the number of organisations awarded laboratory accreditation increased threefold from 50 to more than 150 and GLP approved facilities increased from 1 to 5.

In addition to the above threefold increase in the number of organisations accredited by INAB under its original two functions of laboratory accreditation and GLP, INAB was also given responsibility for a further eleven new accreditation functions between 1995 and 2005. These additional accreditation functions comprise accreditation of certification bodies operating in the fields of product, personnel, quality (ISO 9000), environmental and energy management (ISO 14001 and the EU Eco-Management and Audit scheme (EMAS) as well as Greenhouse Gases; inspection bodies; attestors and attestation bodies for public procurement; information security management systems certification and E-Commerce. INAB has nine certification bodies currently accredited for fourteen different programmes in these fields of activity. These certification bodies have, in turn, certified more than 2,000 organisations to the ISO 9000 series of standards and more than 150 organisations to ISO 14001 under INAB accreditation.

### AREAS WHERE FUTURE GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR ACCREDITATION IS PROJECTED

During the past four years INAB experienced unprecedented growth in demand for its services and a major challenge for INAB for the future involves maintaining the accreditations already awarded through



## Contd. from cover

piloting an accreditation scheme to accredit these certification bodies so that the market can have confidence in the competence and integrity of the certifications which they issue.

INAB is also currently in discussions with the Private Security Authority (PSA) the statutory agency of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law reform concerning the development of an accreditation scheme for organisations requiring licenses to undertake security activities such as cash in transit, electronic security systems, locksmiths etc.

INAB is currently processing applications for accreditation for the new national accreditation programme for Accredited Inspection Bodies (AICs) under the EC Directive on Volatile Organic Compounds (more commonly known as the Solvents Directive) to verify emissions of volatile organic compounds from SMEs such as Dry Cleaners and paint spraying workshops.

In 2004 INAB extended its laboratory accreditation programme to medical laboratories and awarded two laboratories accreditation to ISO 15189, the new international standard for medical laboratories. INAB will continue to support the Department of Health and Children and the Irish Medicines Board in meeting requirements for accreditation to ISO 15189 in the health sector arising from national or international legislation for medical laboratories and developments in hospital services accreditation generally. Statutory Instrument SI No. 360 of 2005 transposes the European Directive 2002/98/EC on setting standards of quality and safety for the collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components. This statutory Instrument requires blood banks (approx. 60 laboratories) to operate to ISO 15189 by November 2008. INAB expects that these laboratories will present for accreditation over a three year period and that a significant number of new applications for laboratory accreditations to ISO 15189 from this sector will be received from the first group of laboratories in 2006.

INAB will continue to co-operate with Government Departments and State Agencies in developing accreditation programmes to support the regulatory functions of these bodies e.g. notification under the new approach European Directives which is currently under review by the European Commission and which is expected to generate a greater demand for accreditation in the notification process.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ACCREDITATION – MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The member states of the EU have established a network of National Accreditation Bodies for conformity assessment to assist in the elimination of technical trade barriers. These accreditation bodies ensure that the competence of certification bodies, laboratories and inspection bodies can be assessed on the same principles regardless of where in Europe they are located.

INAB achieved membership over the past twenty one years of the multilateral agreements (MLAs) for Europe through the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and world-wide through the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). INAB also achieved recognition in 2004 by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) for accreditation to the BRC Global Standard on Food. INAB's membership of these international agreements enables accredited certificates and test results produced in Ireland to be accepted worldwide. Thus INAB plays a key role in guaranteeing Irish products access to both the EU and worldwide markets.

INAB undergoes regular international peer reviews of its accreditation activities as signatory to the Multi-Lateral Agreements (MLA's) for EA, IAF and ILAC. The servicing of these MLAs requires INAB to commit

significant staff resources to maintain its internal quality management systems and procedures in compliance with international standards governing the operation of accreditation bodies. The European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) has scheduled a full evaluation of INAB for the first quarter of 2006 in order to determine if INAB is operating in accordance with the new international standard ISO 17011- **General Requirements for bodies providing assessment and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs)**. EA has appointed a team of six assessors to assess INAB over 7 days during the first quarter of 2006.

INAB as a signatory to these MLAs is also obliged to provide evaluators for foreign EA Peer evaluations and to actively participate on international committees responsible for the development and review of EU conformity assessment standards. Under these agreements for example IAF recently established requirements on Cross Frontier Accreditation which oblige each accreditation body to undertake more on site monitoring of the activities of its accredited bodies providing accredited services abroad.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ACCREDITATION – THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Council Resolution (2003/C 282/02) of 10th November 2003 mandated the European Commission to propose mechanisms to enhance the implementation of the New Approach Directives. The Commission has consulted widely over the past two years and has identified accreditation as a key mechanism to enhance the implementation of the New Approach Directives. The Commission identified accreditation involving the specific requirements of the Directive(s) as the preferred mechanism for assuring the initial and ongoing competence of notified bodies. The current draft Commission proposals on the role of accreditation as a tool to service the internal market anticipates that accreditation must be recognized as a service of general interest established on a legal basis as a public authority service with a more comprehensive role for accreditation to be included in the legislative framework for the New Approach.

## CONCLUSION

Ireland was among the first group of countries to establish an accreditation system in Europe when it was recognized that the European Commission had embraced accreditation as an essential tool to facilitate the elimination of technical barriers to trade and the operation of the open market. The drivers for accreditation today are no different than they were 20 years ago. What has changed over time is market place awareness that accreditation is the internationally accepted mechanism for assuring the competence of organisations undertaking conformity assessment in certification, inspection and testing. Accreditation therefore provides regulators with a valuable tool for assuring that organisations comply with the competency requirements prescribed by regulation while at the same time promoting competition in the market place. The demand for accreditation both by the market and regulators has therefore grown dramatically over the past five years and is projected to grow at this rate for the foreseeable future.

## THE DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE BOARD BECOMES THE FIRST HSE FUNDED CLINICAL LABORATORY IN IRELAND ACCREDITED TO ISO 17025.

Tánaiste and Minister for Health & Children, Ms. Mary Harney TD, presents the Chairman of the DTCB, Mr. Denis McCarthy, with their award of ISO 17025 (169T) accreditation.



Pictured (from left to right) are: Ms. Mary Harney TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Health & Children; Mr Tom Beegan, Chief Executive Health & Safety Authority, Member of the Board of INAB, and Mr. Denis McCarthy, Chairman of The Drug Treatment Centre Board

The laboratory was awarded accreditation to the ISO 17025 standard (Reg. No.169T) by The Irish National Accreditation Board on the 13th December 2005.

The Drug Treatment Centre Board, formerly known as The National Drug Advisory and Treatment Centre, was established in 1969 originally located at the 'Charitable Infirmary', Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin 1. At the end of 1987, Jervis Street Hospital closed. The Drug Treatment Centre Board was set up by statutory instrument in 1988 and moved to new premises at Trinity Court, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Funding is provided by the HSE.

As the largest and longest established Drug Treatment Centre in the country, their aim is to provide an integrated, person centred, specialist addiction service, supported by best practice and national leadership in academic excellence.

The laboratory provides the largest 'drugs of abuse' screening service in the country which supports appropriate treatment interventions and the identification of national trends in substance misuse.

Customers include the Health Service Executive addiction services, General Practitioners, Voluntary organisations, The Department of Education, The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, The Probation and Welfare Service and The Dublin Drug Court.

Dr. Richard Maguire, Principal Biochemist and Technical Manager said, "I am delighted with our achievement of the ISO 17025 standard which is a reflection of the commitment of our laboratory team in ensuring the highest standards of service delivery".

Ms Sinéad McNamara, Quality Manager said, "ISO 17025 provides a clear transparent confirmation of adherence to a set standard and supports public confidence. It recognises that the laboratory has competent staff, appropriate testing equipment and facilities and that it carries out its work according to international standards".

Sheila Heffernan, General Manager, said, "as the first HSE funded organisation to achieve the ISO 17025 accreditation this is a huge achievement for our organisation and is the end result of the commitment and dedication of our Board, Principal Biochemist Dr. Richard Maguire, Ms Sinéad McNamara, Quality Manager, and our laboratory team over the last number of years. We are committed to ensuring that we not only maintain these standards but develop and expand into other areas in order that we continue to lead and deliver best practice in all areas of our specialist services".

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION EMAS AWARDS

In December 2005, two EMAS registered sites were awarded for their outstanding innovative EMAS applications:

JOHN CRANE Ltd received the award for the best innovative application of EMAS in Ireland for an SME.



Barry Carey, Health, Safety & Environmental Manager, John Crane Ireland Ltd and Dr Mary Walsh, INAB Chairperson

WYETH MEDICAL IRELAND received the award for best innovative application of EMAS in Ireland by a large organisation.



Pictured (from left to right) are: Michael Donlon, EHS Manager; Mr Tom Dempsey, Manager of INAB; Declan Finan, MD Wyeth Medica and Mr Ed Molyneaux, Senior Environmental Officer

## WHAT IS EMAS?

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU voluntary instrument which acknowledges organisations that improve their environmental performance on a continuous basis. EMAS registered organisations are legally compliant, run an environment management system and report on their environmental performance through the publication of an independently verified environmental statement. They are recognised by the EMAS logo, which guarantees the reliability of the information provided.



## ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2005

- 043C **Mason Technology Ltd.**  
Greenville Hall, 228 South Circular Rd, Dublin 8  
*Heat & Temperature Calibration Laboratory*
- 159MT **Claymon Laboratories Ltd**  
Three Rock Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18  
*Medical Testing Laboratory*
- 160T **Drogheda Concentrate**  
Donore Road, Drogheda, Co Louth  
*Chemical Testing Laboratory*
- 161C **Metrology Systems & Service**  
Coolagown, Fermoy, Co Cork  
*Mass Calibration Laboratory - Metrology*
- 162T **GeoTesting Ltd.**  
21 Link Business Park, Kilcullen, Co Kildare  
*Construction Materials Testing Laboratory*
- 163T **McAllister Devereux Keating Ltd.**  
Carrigtwohill Business Centre, Carrigtwohill, Co Cork  
*Chemical Testing (Asbestos) Laboratory*
- 164T **Isotron Ireland Ltd.**  
IDA Business & Technology Park, Tullamore, Co Offaly  
*Microbiology Testing Laboratory*
- 165T **Roadstone Dublin Ltd.**  
Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
*Construction Materials Testing Laboratory*
- 166T **Enfer Micro Laboratories Ltd**  
Carrigeen Industrial Park, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary  
*Microbiology Testing Laboratory*
- 167T **SIAC Construction, Bundoran.**  
Site N15, Finner Road, Bundoran, Co. Donegal  
*Construction Materials Testing Laboratory*
- 168T **Schering-Plough (Avondale) Co**  
Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow  
*Chemical Wastewater Treatment Testing Laboratory*
- 169T **Drug Treatment Centre Board**  
Trinity Court, 30-31 Pearse Street, Dublin 2  
*Clinical Chemistry Testing Laboratory*
- 170MT **Waterford Regional Hospital**  
Microbiology Department, Dunmore Road, Waterford  
*Medical Testing Laboratory*
- 6004 **Verifier Services Ltd.**  
25 Drury Street, Dublin 2  
*GHG Verifier*
- 6005 **EURO Environmental Services Ltd.**  
Unit 35, Boyne Business Park, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
*GHG Verifier*
- 5007 **Business Quality Assurance International Ltd.**  
Woodvale House, Clarinbridge, Co Galway  
*QMS Certification Body*
- 7001 **European Registration Scheme for Personnel Competence (ERS)**  
Europa House, Coney Green Business Centre, Wingfield View,  
Clay Cross, Chesterfield S35 9JW, UK  
*Personnel Certification*

## ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS STANDARD I.S. 393:2005

A new Irish Energy Management Standard, I.S.393, was launched in August 2005 by NSAI in conjunction with Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI).

I.S. 393 covers all aspects of a company's approach to managing its energy costs, and in particular requires that the company's senior management be directly involved in establishing and supporting policies on energy and emission reduction.

INAB is working with SEI in developing an accreditation scheme for Certification Bodies that wish to certify companies to I.S. 393. The energy management standard is closely based on ISO 14001 and INAB will assess Certification Bodies to ISO Guide 66.

The pilot phase is due to be completed by end of March 2006 and INAB are inviting applications from Certification Bodies that wish to be accredited for this scheme.

Further details may be obtained from [www.inab.ie](http://www.inab.ie) and [www.sei.ie](http://www.sei.ie)

In September 2005, BQA (Business Quality Assurance International Ltd) were presented with their accreditation certificate in Galway. Dr Mary Walsh, INAB Chairperson, and Minister Eamon O'Cuiv both attended and spoke at this celebratory evening.



Pictured (from left to right) are: Minister Eamonn O'Cuiv, Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Declan O'Connor, CEO BQA and Dr Mary Walsh, INAB Chairperson, presenting BQA with their certificate.

## INAB POINTS OF CONTACT

### Manager

Tom Dempsey [tom.dempsey@inab.ie](mailto:tom.dempsey@inab.ie)

### Administration

Mary Horne [mary.horne@inab.ie](mailto:mary.horne@inab.ie)

Anna Wilk [anna.wilk@inab.ie](mailto:anna.wilk@inab.ie)

### Project Executive

Orla Doyle [orla.doyle@inab.ie](mailto:orla.doyle@inab.ie)

### Laboratory Accreditation

Adrienne Duff [adrienne.duff@inab.ie](mailto:adrienne.duff@inab.ie)

Andrew Stratford [andrew.stratford@inab.ie](mailto:andrew.stratford@inab.ie)

Catherine McEnri [catherine.mcenri@inab.ie](mailto:catherine.mcenri@inab.ie)

Marie O'Mahony [marie.omahony@inab.ie](mailto:marie.omahony@inab.ie)

Brid Burke [brid.burke@inab.ie](mailto:brid.burke@inab.ie)

Pat O'Brien [pat.obrien@inab.ie](mailto:pat.obrien@inab.ie)

James Stapleton [james.stapleton@inab.ie](mailto:james.stapleton@inab.ie)

### Certification Body Accreditation

Catherine McEnri [catherine.mcenri@inab.ie](mailto:catherine.mcenri@inab.ie)

Brid Burke [brid.burke@inab.ie](mailto:brid.burke@inab.ie)

### Inspection Body Accreditation

Catherine McEnri [catherine.mcenri@inab.ie](mailto:catherine.mcenri@inab.ie)

Pat O'Brien [pat.obrien@inab.ie](mailto:pat.obrien@inab.ie)

### Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

Marie O'Mahony [marie.omahony@inab.ie](mailto:marie.omahony@inab.ie)

Adrienne Duff [adrienne.duff@inab.ie](mailto:adrienne.duff@inab.ie)

Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 607 3003 Fax +353 1 607 3109

Email [inab@inab.ie](mailto:inab@inab.ie) Web [www.inab.ie](http://www.inab.ie)

### Editors

Orla Doyle

Catherine McEnri

[orla.doyle@inab.ie](mailto:orla.doyle@inab.ie)

[catherine.mcenri@inab.ie](mailto:catherine.mcenri@inab.ie)

