

# The INAB Standard

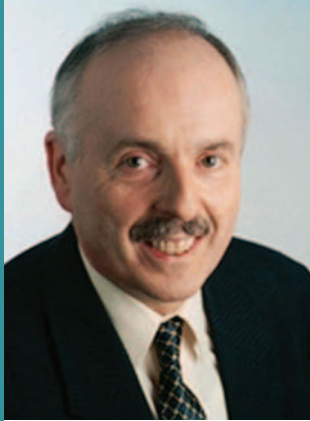


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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD

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Mr Tom Dempsey,  
Manager of INAB

Dear Stakeholders and Readers,

I wish you all a very happy New Year, as we look forward to working together in 2007. Last year was once again a very busy year for INAB and its clients. Accreditation was maintained for one hundred and two organisations. Fourteen new accreditations and fifty-one extensions to scope were awarded during 2006. Two staff left INAB for new pastures and three new staff joined the organisation. INAB with the support and cooperation of its stakeholders also developed and

implemented a number of new accreditation programmes to support national schemes specifically in the fields of environmental protection, food, health and energy sectors as outlined below.

The new accreditation for the EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading scheme set out in Directive 2003/87/EC matured in 2006 following the pilot phase implementation and INAB has now accredited 3 verifiers. Further developments in this area are expected in 2007 to align the accreditation requirements with the European revision of the scheme, which is scheduled for implementation in 2008. INAB also accredited the first inspection body in 2006 and is processing a number of applications under the new national accreditation programme for verifying the emission of volatile organic compounds from SMEs such as Dry Cleaners and paint spraying workshops in accordance with the EC Directive on volatile organic emissions.

INAB extended its accreditation of certification bodies providing food quality assurance schemes to include food products covered by Bord Bia and Bord Iascaigh Mhara quality programmes as well as the international British Retail Consortium (BRC) and Eurepgap quality assurance schemes. Further developments in this sector are expected in 2007 involving accreditation of food safety management system certification under the new international standard ISO 22000. Accreditation of certification bodies certifying Organic farming is another activity in the food sector, which is expected to develop in 2007.

Medical laboratory accreditation is another area where the demand for accreditation is growing. During 2006 INAB and the Irish Medicines Board established an expert group which developed criteria to assist hospital blood banks meet the requirements of Statutory Instrument No. 360 of 2005 concerning the quality and Safety of Human Blood and Blood components.

The accreditation of energy management system certification is another key project for INAB. The new energy management standard I.S. 393 developed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland in cooperation with Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) provides a tool for organisations to take a systematic approach to the continual improvement of energy performance. SEI has developed an Energy Agreements Programme based on this

standard to support firms in protecting their competitiveness in the context of high and rising energy prices. Further developments with this project are expected in 2007 to ensure that accredited certification will deliver the expectations of stakeholders.

I would like to acknowledge the significant support and cooperation, which INAB received during 2006 from the Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Energy Ireland and the Irish Medicines Board in developing and implementing these new accreditation programmes.

Accreditation promotional and awareness activities were significantly increased during 2006. A very successful celebratory evening for INAB 21st anniversary was held in Dublin Castle on 11th October 2006 at which more than 90 of our clients and stakeholders were represented. Mr Michael Ahern TD, Minister opened the event with a presentation on the history and development of accreditation during the past 21 years for Trade and Commerce. In addition, 4 editions of the INAB newsletter comprising a total of 10,000 copies were distributed, the award of accreditations were publicised in the Irish Times, the INAB website was updated to improve navigation and readability, use of the Extranet was increased and a client survey on accreditation process was completed. It is proposed to hold two client seminars in 2007 in Cork and Dublin in response to this survey.

The European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) which monitors the performance of national accreditation bodies in Europe together with the European Commission undertook a full evaluation of INAB during January, February and October 2006 and confirmed that INAB would remain signatory to the international Multilateral agreements for accreditation of laboratories, certification bodies certifying quality management systems, environmental management systems and products. INAB was also admitted as a signatory to the multilateral agreement for accreditation of inspection bodies. The staff of INAB are justifiably proud of this outcome, which confirms that INAB accreditation services are operated in accordance with best international practice.

I would like to thank all our clients for their support and cooperation during the year and we look forward to working with you in 2007 and building on the achievements of 2006. Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Board members who provide their services free of charge and whose contribution is critical to the proper functioning of INAB.

*Tom Dempsey*

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Tom Dempsey  
Manager of INAB

## A SERIES OF FIRSTS!!

*Patrick O'Brien - Accreditation Officer*

### FIRST ACCREDITED INSPECTION CONTRACTOR (AIC)

Certification Europe Ltd with its headquarters located in The Digital Hub, Dublin 8, is the first (AIC) inspection body to achieve accreditation to ISO 17020 for in-service inspections for the emissions of volatile organic compounds from organic solvents. Certification Europe Ltd also provides INAB accredited certification services in Quality Management, Environmental Management, Information Security Management and E-Signatures.

In Ireland, Statutory Instrument 543:2002 requires installations covered by the regulations to be inspected by an accredited inspection body and to generate an annual report on emissions of volatile organic compounds from organic solvents. The report is submitted to the local authority as a condition for obtaining a licence to operate the facility.

Installations affected by the implementation of the regulations include the following activities:

- Surface cleaning
- Vehicle coating and vehicle refinishing
- Coating of metal, plastic, textiles and fabric
- Film and paper coating
- Dry cleaning
- Wood impregnation
- Wood & plastic lamination
- Manufacture of coating preparations, varnishes, inks and adhesives
- Rubber conversion
- Manufacture of pharmaceutical products
- Winding wire coating and adhesive coating

The activities of operators of larger installations come under the already existing legislation of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licensing system operated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### FIRST ASBESTOS INSPECTION BODY ACCREDITED BY INAB

Occupational Hygiene & Safety Services Ltd, (OHSS) is based in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, and is the first organisation in Ireland to be accredited as an Inspection Body (ISO 17020) for undertaking inspection surveys in domestic, commercial and industrial premises for the presence of asbestos.

OHSS was also awarded laboratory accreditation for the sampling and follow up bulk analysis for identification of any asbestos present.

## INAB ACCREDIT FIRST PACKAGING TESTING LABORATORY IN IRELAND

Anecto Ltd was recently awarded laboratory accreditation to ISO 17025 for a range of laboratory tests on packaging used in the transport of dangerous goods, medical device packaging, and also package and transportation product testing.

Goods in transit from point of manufacture to final destination experience vibration, compression, drops and impacts. Anecto Ltd, with its headquarters in Galway, offers a testing service for a range of package testing capabilities to simulate manual handling, stacking, loading, dropping, transportation, altitude testing, accelerated and real time ageing, and product package integrity testing.

## EU GLP WORKING GROUP (WG)

*Marie O'Mahony - Accreditation Officer*

Marie O'Mahony represented INAB at the EU GLP WG meeting held in Brussels on the 7th December 2006. There was a presentation on behalf of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) on its activities and on the level of co-operation with EU GLP monitoring authorities. A meeting with the EMA to build on and further develop this co-operation is planned for 2007.

Dr Juliane Kleiner of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) gave a presentation on the work of EFSA. EFSA provides scientific advice and support for community legislation and policies in all fields that have a direct or indirect impact on food safety.

A sub-group of the WG will participate in a meeting of the EFSA committee on plant protection products in 2007 to discuss possibilities for close co-operation on relevant areas.

A discussion took place on REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals), the new EU regulatory framework for chemicals.

The WG were subsequently informed that the Environment Council adopted the final REACH text on the 18th Dec 2006. REACH will come into force on the 1st June 2007.

## I.S. 393 TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

*Adrienne Duff - Accreditation Officer*

A working group comprising Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), INAB, Certification Bodies and Irish companies was established in 2006 to develop technical guidance to support I.S. 393, the Energy Management Systems Standard. A series of meetings was held from October to December 2006. The Technical Guideline was published in January 2007 and is available by contacting SEI. Accredited Certification Bodies will certify companies to I.S. 393, associated guidance and this Technical Guideline.

## CHANGES ON INAB BOARD

*Adrienne Duff – Secretary to INAB Board*

INAB welcomed two new Board members in 2006 – Mr Tom O'Neill, CEO Pfizer and Mr Neil McGowan, IBEC. Mr O'Neill is Site Leader for the Pfizer Little Island facility, which is an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturing plant. Mr McGowan is currently employed as Regulatory Affairs Executive for the Food and Drink Industry with IBEC.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Mr Tom O'Neill  
Pfizer



Mr Neil McGowan,  
IBEC

Other changes to the INAB Board in 2006 included the re-appointment of Dr Maire Walsh (ex State Chemist) as Chairperson and Mr Michael Moloney (Director of Horticulture and Quality with Bord Bia) as Member. Dr Fiona Kenny (consultant microbiologist at Sligo General Hospital) was appointed as Vice-chairperson.

Mr Donal Connell, CEO of An Post and Ms Fiona Lalor, IBEC retired from the INAB Board.

Full details of the INAB Board is available from the INAB website at [www.inab.ie](http://www.inab.ie)

## RECENT STAFF CHANGES

Mary Horne has been promoted to the Finance Department in Science Foundation Ireland.

Catherine McEnri has recently transferred from INAB to Forfas as Senior Policy Analyst, in the Science Technology and Innovation Department.

Some projects that Catherine was handling have now been transferred to others on the INAB team.

Specifically, Adrienne Duff now handles accreditation of Organic Farming Certification Bodies, Patrick O'Brien handles accreditation of Inspection Bodies, and Marie O'Mahony has broadened her scope to include handling accreditation of Certification Bodies.

## ISO 17021 TRANSITION

*Adrienne Duff – Accreditation Officer*

ISO/IEC 17021:2006 was published on 15th September 2006. It replaces ISO/IEC Guide 62 and ISO/IEC Guide 66 and incorporates the majority of the guidance contained in their respective IAF guidance documents, GD2 and GD6. From 15th September 2008, accreditation to ISO Guide 62 and ISO Guide 66 will no longer be valid.

A resolution passed by the IAF General Assembly endorsed a 2 year transition period to ISO/IEC 17021:2006.

The European (EA) and International Accreditation (IAF) organisations require INAB to ensure that all accredited Certification Bodies in its programme operate to ISO 17021:2006 within 2 years from the date of publication of the standard, i.e. before September 2008.

In order to facilitate a smooth transfer to the new standard, INAB have decided upon the following transition programme:

- INAB request that all their applicant and accredited Certification Bodies submit a transition plan to their INAB officer by 31st May 2007. This plan should specify the required changes to the quality management system and the time frame required to execute them, such that that the CB confirms it is operating to ISO 17021:2006 by September 2007.
- All assessment/surveillance/reassessments from September 2007 will be carried out to ISO 17021:2006.
- From June 2007 all new applicants will be assessed against ISO 17021:2006.
- The 2008 schedule of headquarters visits will be altered to ensure that all CBs are in compliance by September 2008. In this regard, annual headquarter visits for 2008 will be held no later than April 2008.

Organisations may obtain a copy of this standard from: ILLI, 42-44 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)

## INAB SEMINAR / WORKSHOPS 2007

### ISO 17021:2006 SEMINAR

*Adrienne Duff – Accreditation Officer*

INAB will hold an information seminar on ISO 17021:2006 for all INAB Certification Bodies on 1st May 2007. Further details will follow.

### CLIENT WORKSHOPS CORK / DUBLIN

*Orla Doyle – Project Executive*

INAB propose to hold two one-day workshops in Cork and Dublin in September.

The focus for each day is to cover the main findings from the Accreditation Process Survey.

Presentations will also be made on developments within INAB and Accreditation.

Further details will be forwarded to all members.



## ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2006

In 2006, 14 new accreditations were awarded and 102 existing accreditations were maintained by INAB.

- 171T **Central Meat Control Laboratory**  
Backweston Laboratory Campus, Young's Cross,  
Celbridge, Co. Kildare  
*Chemistry & Biology Testing Laboratory*
- 5008 **Samuin Standards Institute Ltd**  
34 Green Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Via del Sale, 13, 26100 Cremona, Italy  
*QMS Certification Body*
- 172T **En-Force Laboratories Ltd.**  
Unit G, Ballyvolane Business Park, Spring Lane,  
Ballyvolane, Cork  
*Biological Testing Laboratory*
- 173T **OMAC Laboratories Ltd.**  
Athenry Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway  
*Chemical Testing Laboratory*
- 174T **Coillte Laboratories**  
Church Road, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow  
*Chemical Testing Laboratory*
- 175T **Anecto Ltd**  
Mervue Business Park, Co Galway  
*Mechanical/Environmental Testing Laboratory*
- 176T **Occupational Hygiene & Safety Services**  
Unit 2 Beat Centre, Stephenstown Ind. Est,  
Balbriggan, Co Dublin  
*Asbestos Testing Laboratory*
- 177T **Edenderry Power Operations Ltd**  
Ballykilleen, Edenderry, Co Offaly  
*Chemical Testing Laboratory*
- 178T **Bristol Myers Squibb Cruiserath**  
Cruiserath Road, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15  
*Chemical Testing Laboratory*
- 179T **IdentiGEN Ltd**  
Unit 9 Trinity Enterprise Centre, Pearse Street, Dublin 2  
*Biological Testing Laboratory*
- 180C **Reagecon Diagnostics Ltd.**  
Shannon Free Zone, Shannon, Co Clare  
*Balance & Volumetric Calibration Laboratory*
- 181T **Enfer Testing Ltd**  
Unit 4 Newbridge Ind Estate, Newbridge, Co Kildare  
*Veterinary Testing Laboratory*
- 9004 **Occupational Hygiene & Safety Services**  
Unit 2 Beat Centre, Stephenstown Ind Est,  
Balbriggan, Co Dublin  
*Inspection Body - Surveying for Asbestos in Premises*
- 9005 **Certification Europe**  
The Digital Hub, 157 Thomas Street, Dublin 8  
*Accredited Inspection Contractor Verifier for  
Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds*

## INAB POINTS OF CONTACT

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The Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland (ESAI) in association with Sensors for the Water Industry (SWIG) will host the following seminars on 7-8 March 2007 at RDS Dublin.

- Day 1 Potable Water, Metering, Water Loss & Distribution Systems  
Day 2 Sewage Treatment Plants, Optimization of Process & Control.

Minister for the Environment, Mr. Dick Roche, will open the seminar. The aim is to bring together all areas of water resource management to acquire and disseminate new knowledge, from identifying pharmaceutical elements in waste effluent to quality monitoring of effluent flow. The seminar will provide opportunities to objectively address the adverse risks and beneficial opportunities that are arising in these times of increasingly rapid change. There are limited delegate spaces available – first come, first served.

For further details contact:

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ESAI is a voluntary association of individuals working in the environmental area in Ireland. SWIG is a private, UK based, non-profit making company.

