



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM INAB

INAB would like to wish all our members, assessors, and readers of The INAB Standard a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



## ADRIENNE DUFF APPOINTED AS INAB MANAGER

Adrienne Duff will replace Tom Dempsey as Manager of INAB with effect from November 2008.



Adrienne Duff – appointed new manager of INAB.

Adrienne obtained a first class honours degree and a PhD in Chemistry from University College Dublin; she also obtained an Ordinary Bachelor Degree in Legal Studies from the Dublin Institute of Technology and in 2007 she obtained a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Institute of Public Administration. Adrienne is also a Chartered Chemist with the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Adrienne has worked with INAB since 2002 when she joined as Senior Accreditation officer and since then has worked on a number of accreditation programmes. Prior to working in INAB, Adrienne worked both in the private sector and the civil service for a number of years.

"With the introduction of new legislation providing a framework for accreditation in Regulation 765/2008, the role of accreditation and INAB is moving to a new phase of development. I am looking forward to responding to the exciting challenges facing accreditation together with my colleagues in INAB and our accreditation colleagues in EA, ILAC and IAF. I intend to develop a close working relationship with INAB stakeholders and clients and within the framework of the new Regulation continue to build respect and value of INAB accreditation.

As you may be aware, Tom Dempsey is retiring at the end of November after a long and distinguished career with INAB and within the Agencies. On behalf of all INAB staff, past and present, I would like to wish Tom and his family a long and happy retirement and to sincerely thank him for the contribution he has made to the development of INAB and accreditation over the years" – Adrienne Duff.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACCREDITATION ADOPTED

### Tom Dempsey

The Council of the European Union and the European Parliament has agreed an EU Regulation (765/08) that will, for the first time, provide a legal framework for the provision of accreditation services across Europe. The Regulation sets out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products. The Regulation, formally adopted on 9th July 2008, takes effect from 1st January 2010 and applies to accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies providing accredited conformity assessment services either on a voluntary basis or in support of legislation. It sets out the obligations for Member States, Conformity Assessment Bodies, Accreditation Bodies and the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA).

Member States are required to appoint a single national accreditation body and to entrust it with the operation of accreditation as a public authority activity. Each Member State is required to monitor its national accreditation body at regular intervals and to take appropriate action where the national accreditation body does not meet the requirements of the Regulation. The Member State must ensure that its national accreditation body subjects itself to peer evaluation by EA, that it addresses any non compliances raised and that it publishes the outcome of the EA peer evaluation. Each Member State must ensure that its national accreditation body has appropriate financial and personnel resources.

The EU Regulation with some minor exceptions obliges Conformity Assessment Bodies (laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies) to seek accreditation from the accreditation body of the Member State in which the Conformity Assessment Body is established. The objective being to prevent competition between national accreditation bodies, to promote the mutual recognition of conformity assessment results and to ensure that accreditation remains the last level of control in the conformity assessment chain.

To improve the consistency of accreditation services across Europe, the Regulation sets common requirements for national accreditation bodies, to be monitored by Member State governments.

The obligations placed on the Irish National Accreditation Board by the Regulation for the most part mirror the *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* as set out in the International Standard ISO 17011.

The accreditation services provided by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) are fully in compliance with ISO 17011 and INAB's compliance with this standard is confirmed by the European Cooperation for Accreditation through regular peer evaluations. The general requirements of ISO 17011 incorporated into the Regulation require the national accreditation body to:

- Be independent and impartial and operate on a not for profit basis.
- Not offer services provided by conformity assessment bodies.
- Not compete with other national accreditation bodies.
- Ensure effective and balanced involvement of interested parties.
- Evaluate the competence of CABs and award accreditation certificates.
- Monitor the CABs it has accredited.
- Withdraw accreditation when necessary.
- Publish audited annual accounts.
- Monitor the performance and competence of personnel involved.
- Safeguard confidentiality of the information obtained.

The Regulation also recognises the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) as the co-ordinating organisation for the national European accreditation infrastructure. National accreditation bodies will be required to be members of EA and to participate in the peer evaluation programme operated by EA.

The Regulation obliges Member States to recognise accreditation as the preferred means to demonstrate the competence of conformity assessment bodies. The legal framework for the provision of accreditation services established by this Regulation will enhance the confidence in conformity assessment and encourage the mutual recognition of conformity assessment results and certificates.

## TOM DEMPSEY RETIRES AS MANAGER OF INAB

### *Tom Dempsey*

As some of you may already know I will retire as manager of the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) on 28th November 2008 after serving almost forty years in the public service.

Seventeen of these forty years were in INAB with the last ten years as manager of INAB. I really enjoyed working with staff from our accredited organisations, the Board Members of INAB, the international accreditation community and especially with the hard working staff of INAB during my ten years as manager.

There have been considerable developments in accreditation during these past ten years and I feel especially privileged to have been part of these developments. INAB, together with its stakeholders and accredited bodies, has managed the transition to the latest versions of every conformity assessment standard at least once during this period (e.g. 45000 series of standards to 17000 series of standards etc.). In addition we have seen unprecedented growth in demand for the traditional areas of accreditation of testing, calibration, certification and inspection as well as growth in demand for the application of accreditation to new programmes for sectors such as:

- **Environment** with Greenhouse Gas verification, Eco Management and Audit verification, inspection of Volatile Organic Compounds and ISO 14001 certification.
- **Food** with National food schemes such as Bord Iascaigh Mhara and Bord Bia schemes, the British Retail Consortium scheme, the EUREPGAP scheme, Organic Farming and ISO 22000.
- **Energy** with the new energy management standard I.S.393.
- **Medical** with the medical laboratory accreditation standard ISO 15189.



*Tom Dempsey  
retires as Manager.*

Furthermore during this period accreditation has achieved formal recognition by the European Council and Parliament through the EU Regulation 765/08 which establishes a legal basis for accreditation in Europe – see page 1 article in this newsletter. During this period INAB also expanded its multilateral agreements with the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA), ILAC and IAF thereby affording its accredited bodies worldwide recognition of the accredited services provided by these bodies.

I am really pleased that Adrienne Duff is the new Manager of INAB as she has a great understanding of the current and future issues for accreditation. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Adrienne every success in her new role and that you will give her the support and encouragement that you so kindly gave to me as manager of INAB.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank all the colleagues that I met over the years from our accredited bodies, on our Board and within INAB/Forfás for the extraordinary support and goodwill shown to me during this most enjoyable period of my working career. It was a real pleasure to work with you and I wish each of you every success for the future as I look forward to my retirement.

## INAB AWARDS ITS 200TH REGISTRATION

On September 2008, WALT Infrastructural Services Ltd was awarded the 200th registration number for their accredited construction testing laboratory by INAB.



WALT Infrastructural Services Ltd – Registration No. – 200T

WALT Infrastructural Services Ltd. (WALTIS Ltd) is an independent construction material testing laboratory located in Mooretown Kildare, Co. Kildare.

WALTIS specialise in the testing of soils, aggregates, concrete and asphalt bituminous materials.

"We recognise the absolute importance of accreditation. Heretofore, it was virtually impossible for Waltis to even attain a meeting with prospective clients as we lacked the accreditation most companies sought" – Mr Henri Agoma – WALTIS.

## DAVIDSON & HARDY LTD

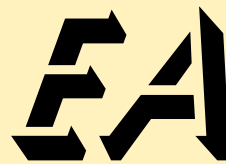
### Temperature Calibration Laboratory



Patrick O'Brien, INAB Accreditation Officer, presents Davidson and Hardy Ltd with their accreditation certificate for their Temperature Calibration Laboratory at their recent Surveillance Visit in July 2008.



Pictured (L-R): Bernard Purce, Managing Director D&H; Ray Coleman, Service Manager D&H; John Andrews, INAB Assessor; Pat O'Brien, INAB Accreditation Officer; Stanley Wilson, Service Director D&H; Philip Brooks, Engineer D&H.



## European co-operation for Accreditation

## EA MEDICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

### Emma Scott McGrane – Accreditation Officer

The most recent EA Working Group (WG) Healthcare, Laboratory Medicine Meeting, hosted by IPAC, was held in Lisbon on July 1st and 2nd 2008. This meeting was attended by Sinead Guckian and Emma Scott McGrane on behalf of INAB.

A summary of the EA Medical Laboratory Committee meeting held in Athens 2008 was presented to the group. A position paper on the description of scopes of Medical Laboratories was discussed by the WG and has since led a FAQ's document being available on the EA website.

Point of Care Testing (POCT) was addressed by the WG as the question was raised within ILAC as to whether ISO 22870 should be included in the ILAC MRA. The WG concluded that the POCT parameters must be stated in the annex of the accreditation certificate. It was also agreed that a management group for POCT be established.

The Accreditation of Medical Reference Laboratories was raised for discussion. It was agreed that the Accreditation of Medical Reference laboratories will be assessed using a combination of ISO 15195 "Laboratory Medicine Requirements for reference measurement laboratories" and ISO 17025. Also, reference laboratories will be accredited as calibration laboratories to ensure traceability. Medical laboratory reference laboratories can be found on the JCTLM website: <http://www.bipm.org/jctlm/>

SAS presented findings of a survey carried out on "The status of the accreditation of medical laboratories within EA". The purpose of this survey was to give an overview to the EA Healthcare Working Groups as to what is being done in the field of medical examinations. A discussion took place regarding a proposed survey which is to be carried out by the EFCC on "The Harmonisation of Accreditation". Results should be available in June 2009.

Finally, Eurogentest is promoting participation in external quality assurance (EQA) schemes for genetic testing laboratories. Some EQA scheme providers for genetic testing are seeking accreditation and Eurogentest encouraged Accreditation bodies to accredit these schemes. EQA providers in the field of genetics can be found on the Eurogentest website.



## ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2008

- 190T Roadbridge Ltd**  
Ballclough, Ballysheedy, Co. Limerick  
*Construction Materials Testing Laboratory*
- 191MT The Mater Private Healthcare Group**  
Mater Private Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 192MT St Vincent's Hospital Healthcare Group**  
St Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 193T Building Envelope Technologies Ltd**  
Craanhill, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford  
*Environmental Testing of Buildings Testing Laboratory*
- 194T Southern Scientific Services Ltd**  
Dunrine, Killarney, Co. Kerry  
*Chemical and Biological Testing Laboratory*
- 195MT Mullingar Midland Regional Hospital**  
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 196T SM Morris Ltd**  
Bromley, Kilpeddar, Co. Wicklow  
*Construction Materials Testing Laboratory*
- 197MT Kerry General Hospital**  
Tralee, Co. Kerry  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 198MT Sligo General Hospital**  
Sligo  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 199MT Cork University Hospital**  
Cork  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 200T WALT Infrastructural Services Ltd**  
Mooretown, Kildare, Co. Kildare  
*Construction Materials Testing Laboratory*
- 201MT The Bon Secours Health Systems Ltd**  
Blood Transfusion Laboratory, Glasnevin, Dublin 9  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 202MT Portiuncula Hospital**  
Blood Transfusion Laboratory, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 203MT Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise**  
Blood Transfusion Laboratory, Portlaoise, Co. Laois  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 204MT St James Hospital**  
Blood Transfusion Laboratory, St James St., Dublin 8  
*Blood Transfusion Testing Laboratory*
- 6007 EQA (Ireland) Ltd**  
15 Greenmount House, Greenmount Office Park,  
Harolds Cross, Dublin 6W  
*Product Certification*

## INAB STAFF NEWS – NEW FACE



Hazel Brannelly –  
Accreditation Officer.

## INAB POINTS OF CONTACT

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