The INAB Standard

www.inab.ie
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD

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INAB TO ACCREDIT VERIFIERS FOR THE AVIATION SCHEME

Brid Burke – Accreditation Officer

The GHG emissions trading directive (2003/101/EC) was amended in November 2008 to include aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the EU.

This new 'Aviation' Directive (2008/101/EC) came into force in February 2009. S.I. No. 274 of 2009 was issued in July 2009 and transposes key features of the Aviation Directive into Irish National Legislation.

The Aviation Directive requires all (EU and non-EU) operators of fixed or rotary-wing aircraft over 5,700kg (12,566 pounds) who fly to, from or within EU countries to participate in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme starting in 2012.

The EPA is the designated competent authority for the implementation of the directive in Ireland. INAB continues to be the accreditation body responsible for accrediting verifiers to carry out verifications according to the relevant legislation.

Other compliance requirements for Aviation operators commenced in 2009 and so Aviation operators have submitted monitoring and reporting plans to the EPA. Verified emissions reports will need to be submitted to the EPA before the 31st March 2011. Full details of these requirements may be obtained from the EPA website. www.epa.ie

For this reason, INAB is currently considering applications for extension to scope in the aviation sector. Applications (AF-2-B) are available from our website.

Verification bodies wishing to work in Ireland from other EU member states will need to be accredited to EN45011/ISO15065 and EA 6/03, by INAB or another EA member accreditation body. If a verifier is accredited by an EA member other than INAB, the verifier should contact INAB or the EPA before completing work here in Ireland.

Contact Brid Burke for further information on this scheme.

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is the national body with responsibility for Accreditation in Ireland. The accreditation process determines, in the public interest, the technical competence and integrity of organisations offering testing, inspection, calibration and certification services.

INAB HOLD ITS 3RD ASSESSOR FORUM IN DUBLIN

Orla Ivers – Project Executive

On January 22nd 2010, INAB hosted its 3rd INAB Assessor Forum in Dublin. INAB Assessors (37) from Ireland, UK, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden participated.

The primary objective of the forum was to exchange information with assessors, and harmonize the accreditation process.

Adrienne Duff, Manager of INAB, opened the forum by welcoming new and existing assessors to the forum and thanking them for their dedication to INAB and its clients.

Presentations in the morning covered all aspects of the assessment process, including the visit preparation, the requirements of the assessment team on the day, and post visit activities.

In the afternoon, three break-out sessions, specific to Medical Laboratory, Testing and Calibration and Certification and Inspection took place. This was technically specific and gave assessors an opportunity to feedback into the INAB system within their specific field of interest. This proved to be very useful.

In the final part of the day, each facilitator from each break out session reported a summary from their group.

Assessors can access all information related to the forum on the INAB Extranet.

EUROMEDIC LABLINK LTD - 244MT

Medical Testing Laboratory

(L-R) Former Chairperson of the INAB Board, Dr. Mary Walsh presents Aaron Keegan, General Manager, Euromedic Lablink with their Accreditation Certificate.

Irish National Accreditation Board

EMAS III DEVELOPMENTS

Andrew Stratford – Accreditation Officer

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Regulation has been revised, and published as a new regulation (EC) No 1221/2009. It entered into force on the 11th January 2010.

Transitional Arrangements

The transitional arrangements are set out in Article 51 of the new regulation:

INAB will remain as the Competent Body, handling registrations in Ireland, and as the Accreditation Body for accredited EMAS verifiers. **Any modified procedures must be implemented by 11th January 2011.**

Organisations registered in accordance with EMAS II will remain on the register. At the time of the next verification of the organisation, the environmental verifier must check the organisation's compliance with the requirements of the new regulation. If the next verification is scheduled to be carried out before 11th July 2010, the date of the next verification may be extended by six months, subject to agreement with the environmental verifier and with INAB.

All new applicants to the Scheme and those renewing their registration are required to comply with the new Regulation.

Registered organisations should discuss the most appropriate course of action with their verifier, and ensure that INAB is notified if an extension is required, to ensure that registration is maintained during the transitional period.

Organisations that fail to request an extension from INAB, and have not had their verification in accordance with EMAS III, risk being suspended from the register.

New Elements in EMAS III

EMAS III contains a number of new features:

- Environmental Statements must now document an organisation's environmental performance. Annex IV of the regulation gives details, but in short, the following 'core indicators' must be used by all organisations:
  - (i) Energy efficiency;
  - (ii) Material efficiency;
  - (iii) Water;
  - (iv) Waste;
  - (v) Biodiversity; and
  - (vi) Emissions.
- EMAS has always required organisations to meet legal requirements, but EMAS III has strengthened the requirement somewhat. Organisations are now required, at initial registration, to provide material evidence of compliance with applicable legislation, where before, they had to implement a management system covering the requirements (Article 13 2(c)).
- EMAS III now allows for countries outside Europe to be registered, and allows for organisations with multiple sites to apply for one single corporate registration. Organisations outside Europe should apply for registration to the Competent Body in the member state where their verifier is accredited. See Article 3 for further details.
- EMAS III, Article 7, allows some flexibility in the frequency for which small organisations are required to publish their environmental statement and its updates. Article 2 of the regulation defines a 'small organisation'.
- There is now only one version of the EMAS logo for organisations to use under the new Regulation. Article 10 and Annex V give further information. The new regulation also allows for the use (in Ireland) of 'Bainistíocht comhshaoil fíoraithe' along with the logo, instead of "Verified Environmental Management", if the organisation chooses.

For further general information on the regulation or registration requirements, or for verifiers with enquiries about the accreditation or supervision requirements of the regulation, please contact Andrew Stratford.

Organisations with specific enquiries about verification should contact their environmental verifier.

For further information on the Regulation and EMAS log onto: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm

COUNTY COUNCILS REGISTER FOR EMAS

Waterford County Council and South Tipperary County council are the latest organisations to be entered on the European EMAS Register.

South Tipperary County Council

(L-R) Edmond O'Connor, County Manager; Pat Keelan, FAS Supervisor; Tom Ambrose, Chairperson South Tipperary County Council; Dr Nuala Bannon, INAB Board member; and Sean Keating, Director of Services Environment and Water Services.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Deirdre Ní Bhroin – Accreditation Officer

I joined the Irish National Accreditation Board as a Senior Accreditation Officer on 16th November 2009. I am looking forward to this new challenge in my career and I expect it to greatly enhance my skill-set.

I graudated from University College, Dublin with a degree in Microbiology & Biochemistry. Following this I embarked on a project for An Foras Taluntais to research the effects of herbicides on the microflora of soil and during this time I taught microbiology part-time at the College of Technology, Kevin Street. I was employed in several different roles in industry in Ireland as Plant Microbiologist/Laboratory Manager in the Food, Medical Device and Pharmaceutical industries and as Department Manager in a Chemical & Environmental Test Laboratory.

In 1995 I joined the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) as a Certification Officer in the Medical Devices, Food, Agriculture and Healthcare Department. This involved extensive travel and auditing of sites in Ireland and world-wide for compliance to ISO 9001, ISO 13485 & ISO 14000. In 2000, my role changed and I became a full time auditor of Medical Device standards and directives and reviewer of product applications for CE Marking of medical devices.

From 2003-2007, I was appointed as acting Operations Manager of the Medical Devices, Food, Agriculture and Healthcare Dept. of NSAI where my main focus was in the development and expansion of the Medical Device Notified Body section, including extending accreditation for two additional directives.

Since the beginning of my working career, I have seen many changes in the approach to quality. The use of quality standards in the manufacture of food, medical devices and related services was in the early stages of development. Only the more progressive organisations operated some form of quality system. Voluntary standards soon became mandatory and guidance documents became more rigorous and detailed in expectation. Regulation in these areas has increased in recent years as experience has been gained and shared between regulators, thereby demanding higher and higher standards for manufacture and testing of product.

Today most organisations are involved in some type of certification and or accreditation and there is great awareness in industry of the need to achieve this type of recognition for their product, process or service. This in turn has meant a safer and better quality of product and service for the consumer. It is rewarding to be a part of this cycle and I am looking forward to gaining further insight into the process in my future work with INAB.

UPDATE ON ORGANIC FARMING

Sinead Guckian – Accreditation Officer

On June 28, 2007, the EU adopted the new Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products replacing regulation 2092/91. It came into force on the 1st January 2009.

Regulation 834/2007 is a general framework regulation that sets out common principles and objectives. Measures for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 were published in September 2008 as Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

The regulation is the legal basis for production, processing and trade of organic products in the European Union. Only products certified according to this regulation can be labelled as "organic". The EU-Regulation also requires certification bodies to be accredited according to EN 45011 (ISO 65) "General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems". Please refer to the INAB directory of accredited organisations for details of INAB accredited certification bodies.

ROSCOMMON COUNTY HOSPITAL

Medical Testing – Blood Transfusion Laboratory

ROSCOMMON COUNTY HOSPITAL (238MT)

The members of the hospital committee are presented with the INAB Certificate by Dr. Andy Hodgson, INAB Board member.

(L-R) Marie Ralphs, Senior Medical Scientist; Tadg Kenny, Chief Medical Scientist; Dr. Andy Hodgson, INAB Board Member; Mairead Rogers and Mary Mimnagh, CNS – Haemovigilence; Louise Talbot, Medical Scientist.

INAB

ACCREDITATIONS AWARDED IN 2010

- **Dairy Science Laboratory**
  Laboratory Testing – Cork
- **Galway University Hospital**
  Medical Testing Laboratory – Galway
- **Security Institute of Ireland**
  Personnel Certification Body – Kildare

CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY

Best Measurement Capability (BMC) change in terminology to Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC)

International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) has decided to make a change to the terminology used to express uncertainty of measurement on scopes of accreditation. The term Best Measurement Capability (BMC) will be replaced by Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC).

The purpose of this change is to achieve harmonisation of terminology in the dissemination of metrological traceability worldwide regardless of source.

European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) accreditation bodies will implement this change in terminology by 31 December 2010 and INAB will undertake this task at routine surveillance visits throughout 2010.

NEW MEDICAL SECTOR COMMITTEE

The Committee has been established by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB), for the sole purpose of offering advice to the INAB Executive on issues of principal importance in the accreditation in the medical field. This will be primarily in the field of medical laboratory accreditation to ISO 15189 and but may expand to other areas of INAB accreditation relevant to the medical sector.

The membership shall include representatives of the end users of the accreditation scheme. Invitations to interested parties have been made with the intent of a first meeting in March 2010.

INAB THE SOLE ACCREDITATION BODY FOR IRELAND

On 21st January 2010, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) informed the EU Commission that INAB is the sole Accreditation Body for Ireland and advised of INAB's scope of accreditation activities under Article 12(2) of Regulation 765/2008. INAB were appointed by DETE under (Article 4(1)).

DIARY DATES

23 Feb 2010	EA Inspection Committee meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
24–25 Feb 2010	EA Certification Committee, Istanbul, Turkey
9 Mar 2010	Laboratory Committee Management Group, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
10–11 Mar 2010	Laboratory Committee Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
22–23 Mar 2010	Horizontal Harmonization Committee, Boras, Sweden

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