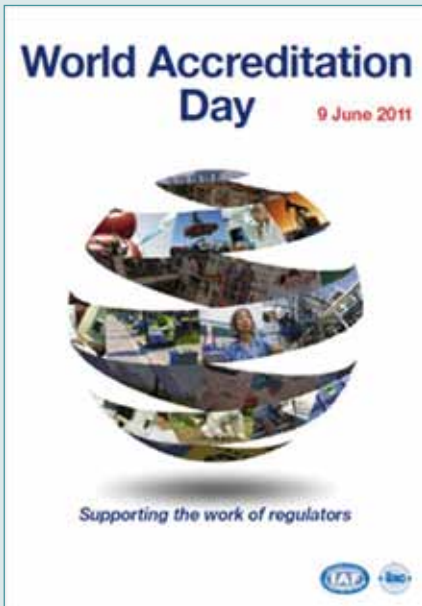


WHAT IS WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2011?



June 9th 2011 will mark World Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The theme this year is:

"supporting the work of regulators"

Nationally, there is greater recognition of accreditation, in particular from Regulators, who are adopting accreditation as a mechanism to deliver a multi-discipline solution that can support or act as an alternative to Legislation.

"Accreditation is essential for the correct operation of a transparent and quality oriented market"
– EU Commission

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is the national body responsible for Accreditation in Ireland.

- Established in 1985 with over 25 years experience in providing accreditation to international standards.
- Appointed by the Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation in 2010 as the sole national accreditation body for Ireland.
- Accreditation is the formal recognition of the body's competence to perform a specific activity such as testing, inspection and certification and provides confidence in the reliability and quality of the services and products provided.
- INAB accreditation ensures that certificates and test results of its accredited clients are acceptable worldwide. Accreditation eliminates the need for multiple conformity assessments when goods transition frontiers, thereby facilitating trade.
- Regulators need a fair and meaningful basis for identifying qualified and competent suppliers of services or products to support their implementation of national and international legislation. Accreditation provides this declaration of **competence**.
- INAB is a signatory to the European multi-lateral agreement with EA and worldwide through ILAC, and IAF, ensuring a mutual recognition and acceptance of INAB accredited certificates. More than forty countries throughout the world are signatories to the Multilateral Agreements of IAF and ILAC, including USA, Canada, Japan, China, India, South Africa, Australia and Ireland.



INAB MAIN FUNCTIONS

Laboratory Accreditation

Accreditation of Inspection Bodies

Accreditation of Certification Bodies

Good Laboratory Practice

National Competent Body for the EU Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

Notified Bodies

HOW DOES INAB SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE REGULATORS?

Governments and Regulators have come to appreciate the importance of credible accreditation programmes that are based on internationally-recognized standards. Regulators increasingly rely on third-party organisations to support their regulatory objectives. When they do so, they need an objective and reliable basis for identifying qualified and competent providers. Accreditation provides this declaration of competence.

The framework for enhancing product safety within Europe strongly relies on accreditation and INAB will support implementation of the legislation and further develop relations with the national authorities.

Over the years, INAB has worked with many regulators, providing solutions through accreditation. The following are some of the accreditation programmes established by INAB, in co-operation with the responsible regulator to support implementation of specific directives and legislation.



No. 543 of 2002, "Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Organic Solvents Regulations 2002". EC Directive 2004/42/CEI implemented by Statutory Instrument 199 of 2007 "Limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints, varnishes and vehicle refinishing products regulations 2007".

The Solvents Regulations require that specified activities not requiring an IPPC licence should be registered and operate in accordance with a certificate of compliance issued by the competent authority. The competent authority is the local authority (County Council or City Council) in whose functional area the specified installation is located.

A certificate of compliance will be issued by the local authority on the basis of an annual inspection and report by an Accredited Inspection Contractor (AIC) confirming that the installation is in compliance with the Regulations. Installations requiring an AIC/VOC inspection to demonstrate compliance with the Directive should have the inspection conducted by one of the Accredited Inspection Contractors (AIC).

VOLATILE ORGANIC SOLVENTS

**Environmental Protection Agency/
Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local
Government (DOELG)**



**Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government**

INAB, in cooperation with the EPA and the DOELG, established a national accreditation programme for prospective **Accredited Inspection Contractors (AIC's)** under the Emission of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Directive, Council Directive 1999/13/EC which was implemented in Ireland as per Statutory Instrument

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

The Irish Medicines Board

Irish Legislation (SI No 360 of 2005 and SI 547 of No 2006) published on foot of European Directives on

the quality and **safety of IRISH MEDICINES BOARD blood and blood products**,

requires blood bank laboratories to operate to ISO 15189. These laboratories must also comply with additional requirements relating to blood traceability and haemovigilance (notification of serious adverse reactions and events).



A guidance document outlining minimum requirements for blood bank compliance was produced and published in 2006 by an INAB working group co-chaired by INAB and The Irish Medicines Board.

GREENHOUSE GASES EMISSIONS TRADING

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



The EPA was appointed by the Government as the competent authority in Ireland with the responsibility for **implementation of emissions trading**. The Regulation required operators to monitor and report their emissions on an annual basis to the EPA. The methodologies for monitoring and reporting are described in EU Commission Decision of (2007/589/EC). This decision also specifies that a verifier shall be a "competent, independent, accredited verification body".

INAB worked closely with the EPA, and put an accreditation programme in place to provide this accreditation service and currently has 2 Irish verifiers accredited to EN 45011.

ORGANIC FOODS

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food



The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the competent authority for regulating the organic sector and ensuring that the obligations and requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as amended are adhered to. 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 Regulation requires certification bodies to be accredited according to EN 45011 (ISO 65) "General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems". INAB worked with the department to put an accreditation programme in place for the organic sector and currently has 2 certification bodies accredited.

INAB accreditation also supports regulatory function in the areas of food and water safety; the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail; electronic signatures and in support of notification process for product safety.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION?

For Government

Accreditation is the preferred mechanism for ensuring public confidence in the reliability of activities that impact on health, welfare, security and the environment. Accreditation identifies bodies competent for the implementation of government policies and regulation.

For Consumer

Accreditation gives consumers confidence through ensuring consistently high standards in the quality and safety of products or services purchased.

For Industry

Accreditation is an essential tool for decision making and risk assessment. Organisations can save money and time by selecting an accredited and competent supplier. Accreditation can provide access to international markets.



INAB SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE REGULATORS

INAB POINTS OF CONTACT

Manager

Adrienne Duff adrienne.duff@inab.ie

Administration

Katerina McKiver katerina.mckiver@inab.ie

Project Executive

Orla Ivers orla.ivers@inab.ie

Laboratory Accreditation

Marie O'Mahony marie.omahony@inab.ie

Pat O'Brien patrick.obrien@inab.ie

James Stapleton james.stapleton@inab.ie

Sinead Guckian sinead.guckian@inab.ie

Emma Scott McGrane emmascott.mcgrane@inab.ie

Frank Crowe frank.crowe@inab.ie

Deirdre Ní Bhroin deirdre.nibhroin@inab.ie

Brid Burke brid.burke@inab.ie

Certification Body Accreditation

Andrew Stratford andrew.stratford@inab.ie

Brid Burke brid.burke@inab.ie

James Stapleton james.stapleton@inab.ie

Sinead Guckian sinead.guckian@inab.ie

Inspection Body Accreditation

Andrew Stratford andrew.stratford@inab.ie

Brid Burke brid.burke@inab.ie

James Stapleton james.stapleton@inab.ie

Pat O'Brien patrick.obrien@inab.ie

Good Laboratory Practice

Marie O'Mahony marie.omahony@inab.ie

Further Information

Web: www.inab.ie

Email: inab@inab.ie

Tel: +353 1 607 3003

LOOK FOR THE INAB SYMBOLS

An INAB accredited body is permitted to display the National Accreditation symbol illustrated here as confirmation of their Accreditation. They are the symbols you should look for as positive proof of competence.

For a full list of INAB accredited organisations log onto www.inab.ie/directoryofaccreditedbodies/

