

# HELPING MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE ACROSS THE PUBLIC SECTOR

A briefing paper about IANZ accreditation for policy makers

Laboratory and inspection body accreditation continues to demonstrate that it can be an important and practical tool in the delivery of objectives across an increasing range of policy areas, including maintaining public confidence. It also offers a mechanism for regulators to ensure that some of their objectives are met.

The accreditation process determines, in the public interest, the technical competence and integrity of organisations offering testing, calibration, inspection and radiology services (collectively known as conformity assessment services).

Industry, consumers and the public depend on reliable testing, measurement and inspection. Accurate tests and inspection results are critical for the protection of public health and safety, the environment, and to facilitate trade.

The Government recognises International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) to assess these types of organisations against internationally recognised standards; and it does so across all market sectors by offering a single, transparent and repeatable approach which:

- builds business and consumer confidence
- is voluntarily embraced by business
- reduces the need for central and local government to employ their own assessment personnel.



## Confidence

*Accurate tests help protect our health and environment*



## Competence

*On-site inspection is essential to confirm compliance with standards and regulations*

If you are responsible for setting or implementing policies that involve any form of independent evaluation, IANZ can help in a number of ways, including defining your needs or designing an assessment or accreditation service to suit your needs, through using a recognised accreditation framework and specific criteria that can be tailored to meet your regulatory requirements.

## Ensuring national and international conformity assessment standards are met

For laboratories and inspection bodies, IANZ accreditation is an ongoing business process and involves establishing that these bodies:

- are impartial
- are technically competent
- consistently meet the required standard
- have the appropriate resources and facilities.

IANZ carries out this accreditation work to internationally recognised standards and is itself regularly reviewed by its international peers.

A total of 64 accreditation authorities in 49 countries, including IANZ in New Zealand, have established an international network of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs), based on regular peer evaluations.

These evaluations are carried out by members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). APLAC is recognised by regional governments as a specialist regional body within Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

## How can accreditation make a difference to public service delivery?

The well established and transparent assessment procedures of IANZ accreditation are applicable to various forms of conformity assessment that help public services, both central and local government, and industry organisations in these important ways:

### **Reducing duplication**

The use of accredited services moderates the need for legislation and reduces the risk of unintended consequences that may undermine policy makers' intent.

### **Enhancing efficiency**

Accreditation allows for a rapid response to new issues and priorities by offering a range of accreditation solutions that can be tailored if necessary to individual requirements of government departments and regulators.

### **Engendering trust**

The IANZ accreditation logo is a well known means of identifying organisations that meet and maintain high standards. The public gain greater confidence in services when they know standards are checked, updated and enforced.

## Use of IANZ accreditation:

New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)	Dairy and meat testing and inspection, wine testing
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Food safety, drinking water, toy testing, food testing, medical testing
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)	Bio security pre clearance, post-entry quarantine (plant testing)
Department of Labour: Workplace Health and Safety (previously OSH)	Boiler testing, pressure equipment, cranes and pipelines, offshore platforms
Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA)	Gas cylinders
Ministry for the Environment (MfE)	Dangerous goods and packaging testing
Ministry of Economic Development (MED)	Petrol and diesel testing, electrical safety and EMC, gas meter calibration, weights and measures
Electricity Commission	Electrical meter calibration
Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ)	Automotive components, mechanical testing, alternative fuel vessels (i.e. LPG and CNG)
Transit New Zealand (TNZ)	Civil materials testing, road marking paints
Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)	Radiology services (CT or MRI)
New Zealand Police	Weighing devices (trucks), road speed device calibration (lasers, radars, static and mobile cameras)
Department of Building and Housing (DBH)	Building consents, fire testing
Christchurch City Council	Civil materials testing
Environment Canterbury	Chimney emission sampling and testing
Dunedin City Council	Civil materials testing
Auckland City Council	Soak hole percolation tests
Auckland Regional Council	Air emission testing
Auckland Public Health	Children's crayons and paints, teats for baby bottles, soy sauce
Roading New Zealand	Bitumen sprayers
Insurance Council of New Zealand	Fire sprinkler systems
New Zealand Dental Council	Hepatitis testing
Law Commission of New Zealand	DNA parentage testing

## Maintaining public confidence across the public sector

There are many duties placed on government departments, local authorities, industry organisations and other agencies to ensure that trust and confidence are maintained. Whether it be health, water quality, food, consumer goods, or transport safety, to name a few, the public sector provides the framework for the assurance that goods and services are safe, and the environment we live in is clean and secure.

A range of government departments and regulatory bodies already collaborate with IANZ to develop, or are developing, their own programmes to either raise standards or implement new ones as a means of increasing public confidence.

In principle, there is no need for a government department to employ its own specialist assessment resource. Using the IANZ accreditation model has the advantage of a single, transparent and repeatable approach that uses internationally agreed and accepted standards, resulting in better risk management. The elimination of duplication reduces costs and contributes to the drive for open and modern government.

Accreditation by IANZ can also limit the need for government to further regulate industry and the professions. It provides an alternative means of ensuring the reliability of activities that have the potential to impact on public confidence or the national reputation.

Many regulators now use IANZ accreditation, and the requirement for accreditation is cited in Acts of Parliament, regulations, internal requirements (councils) and by the courts.

Annually, IANZ accredits:

- 570 testing and calibration laboratories to NZS ISO/IEC 17025:2005
- 150 inspection bodies to AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17020:2000 and other regulatory requirements
- 50 radiology practices to the NZ Code of Radiological Management Practice
- 70 medical testing laboratories to NZS/ISO 15189:2003



This enables these accredited organisations to deliver service and products that meet agreed standards, bolstering confidence on the part of consumers, government and purchasers alike.

## Easily recognised

Identifying an IANZ accredited laboratory or inspection body is easy. Each and every accredited facility is permitted to display the internationally recognised and accepted IANZ logo (see those shown below) with the word "laboratory", "calibration laboratory", "radiology service" or "inspection body" as appropriate. This logo is positive assurance of technical competency and proof of accreditation.



## Key facts about IANZ

- IANZ is the national accreditation authority, authorised by Government to assess testing and calibration laboratories, medical testing laboratories, radiology practices and inspection bodies.
- IANZ is an autonomous crown entity, established under the Testing Laboratory Registration Act, 1972.
- IANZ operates under a MOU with the Minister of Commerce
- IANZ is funded from its client fees; no government funding is received.

## Who to contact for further information

If you would like to find out more about how accreditation might be of assistance to you in your capacity as a policy maker, please contact:

### Ian Roy

Manager International Affairs and Government Liaison

DDI: 09 580 6758

Email: [iroy@ianz.govt.nz](mailto:iroy@ianz.govt.nz)

Or visit our website at [www.ianz.govt.nz](http://www.ianz.govt.nz)

