



## New Year greetings from IANZ

Welcome to the first edition of our new e-newsletter – the IANZ Argus.

The name has its origins in Greek mythology and has evolved to mean a “vigilant and watchful guardian” - which we think is appropriate given IANZ’s duties.

The Argus replaces Focal Points and will provide you with a broad overview of IANZ activities while our specialised newsletters will continue to update you on detailed programme information.

We plan to produce at least four editions of the IANZ Argus a year to keep you up-to-speed with what’s happening in the world of accreditation.

Feedback is most welcome and, if there is anything you’d like us to cover in future editions, please contact: [info@ianz.govt.nz](mailto:info@ianz.govt.nz)

2013 has been a particularly busy one for IANZ and we look forward to maintaining that momentum in 2014.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer break and have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Dr Llew Richards**  
Chief Executive

## Updating newly-elected Mayors on Building Consent accreditation

This year’s widespread publicity about IANZ revoking Christchurch City Council’s building consents accreditation led to a renewed focus on the processes local authorities need to follow.

After the local body elections in October, IANZ chief executive Dr Llew Richards was invited to Wellington to talk to the Mayors and chief executives of the major metropolitan councils.



This was followed by a second get-together, also in Wellington, with the Mayors and CEOs of many rural and provincial local authorities.

“These meetings provided a great opportunity for IANZ to remind the Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) they need to ensure all issued building consents fully comply with the technical requirements of the Building Code and Building Act,” says Dr Richards.

IANZ assesses BCAs every two years.

“There is a high level of responsibility placed on these organisations to ensure they continually meet the requirements of accreditation. IANZ accreditation gives assurance to the people of a district that they can rely on their consent being valid and their building being Code compliant,” says Dr Richards.

“Everybody wants to know that the buildings we live and work in comply with the Building Code, are structurally sound, weather-tight, and meet fire protection requirements.”

### **IANZ involved in Fonterra inquiry**

IANZ was asked to make submissions to the Government inquiry into the Fonterra whey contamination scare. Dr Richards’ input related to the use of accredited laboratory facilities. This incident enabled Dr Richards to issue a timely reminder that the IANZ website provides a directory of all IANZ-accredited testing inspection facilities throughout New Zealand. These are categorised under 30 different headings with a detailed search function to make it easy to find exactly the type of facility required.



To access it, visit [www.ianz.govt.nz/directory](http://www.ianz.govt.nz/directory).

### **Major coup for IANZ from USA’s Department of Homeland Security**

IANZ has recently won a major coup in the United States

It’s become the first accreditation body outside the USA to be endorsed by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Created after the 9/11 attacks, Homeland Security has the primary responsibility for protecting the United States from, and responding to, terrorist attacks, man-made accidents and natural disasters.



“This is a major achievement for New Zealand,” says Dr Richards. “We are the only organisation outside the US to be recognised by the DHS for accreditation of testing services.”

The endorsement relates to IANZ accrediting specific laboratories in New Zealand.

“All Homeland Security communications are encrypted and secure. The equipment used by their military personnel and emergency services must be made and tested in the United States – with one exception. Homeland Security knows it can rely on IANZ to accredit their testing systems and we are the only accreditation body outside the US to be recognised in this way,” says Dr Richards.

### **Making sure goods sold in New Zealand are safe**

Following a request from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, IANZ talked to the Retailers’ Association about the role of accreditation in testing goods sold in New Zealand.

IANZ has previously warned about the need for Kiwis consumers, distributors and retailers to check the goods they buy and import meet safety standards. It has also sounded the alarm about fraudulent testing certificates being presented here.



The issue has become even more important as the volume of imported goods increases. Products that have the potential to cause harm include ladders which can collapse, toys that may be poisonous, prams that fold up incorrectly and poorly-wired household electrical products.

Dr Richards says products sold here must meet New Zealand safety standards and, if they don't, a prosecution under the Fair Trading Act can be taken.

“People buying potentially dangerous items need to be assured they are safe and can do the job they're meant to do. The easiest way to do that is to check they have been tested in a facility that has been accredited by IANZ to test that particular product – and that they passed the test, of course!”

Dr Richards says IANZ and the Ministry are continuing to work together to make it easier for importers and retailers to know what their obligations are, and to make it easier for the end consumer to be assured.

“We'll be meeting with the Retailers' Association on a regular basis to update them on what they need to be aware of and what we're doing in this area.”

### **Growth in global trade focus of Korea conference**

The joint annual meeting of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) was held in Korea in October. Dr Richards, a former board member of ILAC and previous chair of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), represented IANZ at this meeting.



“The focus was very much about how to facilitate global trade and how important robust accreditation is when importing and exporting goods,” he says.

The meeting also enabled IANZ to strengthen relationships with some of New Zealand's key trading partners, particularly China, Taiwan and Korea.

“The Chinese market is opening up more and more and we have established a good affiliation with our counterparts there. As regulatory requirements change, accreditation will be increasingly important,” says Dr Richards.

“With Taiwan and Korea, the volume of goods between our countries is growing rapidly. Taiwan and Korea export electronic goods to New Zealand while we send them a lot of our dairy and meat products and, increasingly, wine and beer.”