



Hope 2015 has got off to a great start for you. In our latest edition of the IANZ Argus, we report on the signing of a new trade arrangement with Taiwan, moves by ILAC to address counterfeit issues worldwide, our new Minister's visit to IANZ HQ and find out more about the country's largest electrical testing laboratory.

IANZ tightens ties with Taiwan



Getting Kiwi products in front of Taiwanese consumers will be easier in future, thanks to a new arrangement finalised in December by International Accreditation NZ (IANZ).

Chief executive of IANZ Dr Llew Richards says the high-level agreement was signed in Taipei on Friday, 5 December, paving the way for increased exports in both directions.

Taiwan is New Zealand's 10th largest overseas market, with more than \$883 million worth of goods exported to the nation of 23 million in 2013. (Source: Statistics NZ)

"New Zealand exports a lot of agricultural commodities to Taiwan and they export a lot of electrical goods here. To make that trade easier, we need to ensure regulators in both countries understand each other's accreditation systems. That's what this new arrangement is all about," says Dr Richards.

"We already have a Mutual Recognition Agreement with Taiwan from 1997 which means we accept accreditation reports from them and vice versa. However, this latest signing goes much deeper than that and will bring increased benefits to the two countries."

Dr Richards says the aim is to engage more with regulators and work closely with them to take advantage of the significant economic benefits accreditation brings to New Zealand and Taiwanese trade.

"Using cross-country accreditation provides cost-effective solutions for regulators. It means more robust systems for checking goods and it minimises liability for all parties."

ILAC tackles global counterfeiting and fake goods

Worldwide problems with fake goods and counterfeit documentation were raised at the general assembly of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in Vancouver late last year.

Attended by IANZ CEO Dr Llew Richards, the meeting agreed ILAC and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) would form a task force to work directly with Interpol to help address these issues.



"The assembly recognised the considerable problems fake goods and counterfeit certificates are causing for countries all over the world.

“These cover anything from fake handbags to fake cancer drugs to bogus medical devices which, instead of titanium, are made with steel which will rust inside you,” says Richards.

“The worldwide distribution of counterfeit goods is being handled by organised crime, which is now trying to also infiltrate the laboratories and certification bodies to get hold of fraudulent documentation.”

The conference heard one new accreditation organisation was trying to gain acceptance into the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) until investigations discovered it had been established by Russian mafia.

“The testing and inspection certification industry in Europe is worth about \$1 billion euros a year and the criminal counterfeit industry is estimated to be not far behind that figure.”

As well as the new task force, ILAC is developing a good practice guide to help organisations like IANZ develop risk management procedures to deal with fraud and counterfeit reports.

New Minister checks out IANZ HQ

The new Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Hon Paul Goldsmith, toured the Auckland headquarters of IANZ before Christmas.

Accompanied by IANZ Chairman Paul Connell, he met staff who told him more about the organisation, while he outlined proposed law changes relating to standards and accreditation.

The Standards and Accreditation Bill is now being considered by the Commerce Committee, which will report back to Parliament by 31 March after a public consultation process.



Goldsmith says the Bill is part of the Government’s Business Growth Agenda and is aimed at ensuring New Zealand’s Standards system is viable, well-functioning and meets the needs of business, regulators and consumers into the future.

Among other measures, the Bill will repeal the Testing Laboratory Registration Act 1972 and incorporate its provisions into the Standards and Accreditation Bill. The Testing Laboratory Registration Council (TELARC) would be renamed the Accreditation Council to better reflect its activities.

The council, established in 1972 as New Zealand’s accreditation authority, has traded as IANZ since 1997. Goldsmith, a National List MP since 2011, succeeded the Hon Craig Foss as Minister of Commerce after last year’s general election.

Meet the clients - UL Auckland

Hundreds of electrical goods pass through the doors of UL’s Auckland laboratory every year to make sure they are fit for purpose and safe to use.

The largest electrical test laboratory in the country, UL provides compliance services for any mains-powered electrical product, says laboratory operational manager Werner Sievert.

“We have up to 100 projects a month undergoing safety tests in our Albany facility, in addition to numerous products going through our Christchurch laboratory for EMC and electrical meter performance testing.”



Sievert, who has been with the company for more than 10 years, says UL tests both locally-made and imported products.

“Whether the appliances are from New Zealand or brought in from overseas, they need to be verified for safety and the level of confidence provided by IANZ accreditation is vital for our clients and for UL.”

In order to be able to issue IANZ-endorsed test reports and use the IANZ logo, UL is subject to an annual audit by IANZ which can be either technical or observational.

“Because we are fully accredited by IANZ, our clients are not only able to use our test reports to demonstrate the quality of their electrical goods, but can do so with confidence that these will be recognised by the regulatory authorities.”

Sievert says UL is seeing an increasing amount of imported goods, and a significant amount of engineering analysis is applied to make sure overseas test reports are authentic, accurate and address the specific requirements applicable within the local market.

The UL Auckland laboratory previously operated as Wakefield Laboratories and became part of the US-based global UL family of companies in 2008.