



In our first issue for 2017, we report on the development of new accreditation programmes, IANZ's search for new board members, working with the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) and WorkSafe on health and safety procedures, the review of the Building Consent Authority (BCA) programme and talk to a long-standing IANZ client.

1. New accreditation programmes on the way

IANZ is busy working with regulators in Wellington to develop new accreditation programmes in a range of different industries. Although IANZ can't reveal the exact details as yet, the new programmes should be announced in two to three months.

IANZ CEO Dr Llew Richards says: "More and more regulators are recognising the rigour of the IANZ accreditation process and how it helps them to establish workable requirements for industry in a light-handed way. Consequently, we are working with Government agencies to expand the sectors in which accreditation is available."



Currently, IANZ accredits the technical competence and management effectiveness of organisations including Laboratories, Inspection Bodies, Radiology and Building Consent Authorities.

“We are here to provide recognition of their competence, and the addition of new programmes to our comprehensive portfolio further reinforces the importance of accreditation in New Zealand. The more organisations that are accredited, the more confidence New Zealanders can have in the processes operating around our workers, products and services,” says Dr Richards.

“IANZ exists to protect the health and wealth of New Zealand, and provide essential support for New Zealand trade, nationally and abroad. An organisation that holds a formal accreditation from IANZ has met our extensive requirements, which are internationally bench-marked and validated through rigorous peer evaluation processes. We have Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) with more than 95 countries worldwide, enabling those countries to recognise results from IANZ accredited clients and vice versa.

“This is very useful for New Zealand manufacturers and allows them to gain direct access to overseas markets. It also provides time and cost benefits for local companies bringing in products from overseas where the New Zealand regulator accepts the testing from an overseas accredited laboratory.

“IANZ not only makes the regulators job easier, we also help make businesses more efficient. For those laboratories active in many industrial sectors, having regulators use IANZ means duplication of assessment is avoided.”

2. IANZ seeking new board members

Several new members are being sought for the IANZ Board. It is likely two to three new members will be appointed to the IANZ Accreditation Council, says CEO Dr Llew Richards

“We currently have five members although the legislation allows us to have up to seven. The term of appointment is normally for three years and most people serve two terms so we want to be well-prepared for the future of the organisation.”

Applications for the new positions closed on 24 February and an announcement on the additional appointments is expected



shortly. The final decision on the new Council members will be made by the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Jacqui Dean, with input from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

3. BCA changes coming in July

With changes to Building Consent Authorities' regulations coming in July, IANZ's contract with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and the Environment to provide BCA accreditation is being renewed.

The changes come into effect on 1 July this year and IANZ has been working with the Ministry to ensure the new rules will be able to be met by the BCAs and IANZ.

"Our existing contract has been renewed to 3 April and we anticipate having our new ongoing contract signed before the end of March. We are already implementing changes in anticipation of the updated regulations," says IANZ CEO Dr Llew Richards.

The new rules set out the criteria and standards an organisation (including a local body) must meet in order to be accredited as a Building Consent Authority under the Building Act 2004.

These include specifying the qualifications that BCA employees and contractors must have (or be working towards) if they are performing technical building control functions, requiring BCAs to notify IANZ and MBIE of certain specified matters, and establishing the fees payable for an accreditation application and audit.

Dr Richards says the timing is very appropriate as this year's World Accreditation Day on 9 June will focus on the Built Environment.

"The theme is 'delivering confidence in construction and the built environment' which is exactly what the new BCA regulations are intended to do."



4. IANZ takes health and safety to the highest level

IANZ has undertaken a complete internal review of its health and safety procedures, in advance of signing its new contract with MBIE.

“We want to be the gold standard for health and safety, not only in New Zealand, but the world,” says IANZ CEO Dr Llew Richards. “Obviously it is vital we meet NZ laws and regulations but we are also committed to complying with ISO45001 which is the new global health and safety standard.”

“We’ve changed a number of our procedures, updated team training and made sure our technical experts also have the appropriate training. A very important part of this is ensuring ‘site safe’ practices.

“The nature of our work means our staff and experts work in some very interesting environments, from laboratories to building sites to industrial plants like container wharves and refineries. Our staff are trained to make sure they stay safe and can recognise significant hazards where they exist.”

Dr Richards says the key is to instil the ‘three C’s of safety’ in workplaces – ensuring they demonstrate *commitment* to employee safety, have processes in place for effective *communication* of the importance of workplace safety and maintain *consistency* in workplace safety processes to prevent accidents occurring.



5. “Meet the clients” – AsureQuality

Global experts in food safety and quality, AsureQuality are proud of their association with IANZ and their accreditation programme. Brian Watson, Group Manager – Testing Services at AsureQuality, talks to us about what they do for companies in New Zealand and the export market, global trends in food safety as well as why they value IANZ accreditation.

What does AsureQuality do on a daily basis for food companies in New Zealand and the New Zealand export market as a whole?

Our team of experts works alongside New Zealand food companies from the farm right through to the supermarket shelf to ensure that the products they produce meet the highest standards of quality and safety. We do this by providing assurance services such as inspection and certification of their food safety systems, and testing of their products at our state of the art laboratory facilities.



AsureQuality is an integral part of New Zealand's global reputation for safe, quality food production and transparent assurance systems. We have played this part as a service business for more than 100 years.

As part of the process for lab testing of food items, how does AsureQuality use IANZ accreditation?

IANZ promotes the development and maintenance of good practice in testing and inspection and maintains a registration scheme for organisations like AsureQuality that comply with that practice. IANZ accreditation allows AsureQuality to demonstrate, through an independent third party audit process, technical competence that satisfies requirements set by our customers, regulators, and provides proof it is performing to 'best practice' international standards.

Why does AsureQuality value accreditation?

IANZ Accreditation puts credibility behind our science. Results from our laboratories are proof that a company has met the standards required for market access, and regulators, consumers and the food companies can be confident in the safety and quality of their products.

IANZ accreditation is performed against international standards and IANZ has been a global leader in setting these standards. We are proud of the high levels of quality that we set and maintain in our laboratories and operations. We are also proud of the leading position that IANZ has taken in this area globally as well as the part that we have played in 'raising the bar' of these expectations. Several of our technical experts offer their time and energy to IANZ as technical experts / assessors, on technical forums, and Professional Advisory Committee and we passionately support the accreditation process.

Are there any global trends surrounding food safety that are becoming more prevalent?

Food safety can be complicated and very challenging, and if things go wrong the consequences can be enormous. Also, the end consumer is increasingly wanting proof that the food they eat is what manufacturers says it is. That is why our customers need an assurance provider they can trust; someone that inspires confidence right across their supply chain.

What is your role at AsureQuality and how long have you been in the position?

I am the Group Manager, Testing Services at AsureQuality. I joined AsureQuality in 2012 and I am responsible for technical and quality control of our laboratories as well as Business performance and customer satisfaction. Previous roles include GM of Gribbles NZ Food, Veterinary and Human Pathology Laboratories, and CEO of Bureau Veritas and NZ Laboratory Services (NZLABS).