

IFIA NEWSLETTER

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2011 was a year of continued growth and increased activity for IFIA.

Message from the President

2011 was a year of continued growth and increased activity for IFIA members. Despite many recent gloomy economic forecasts, 2012 can also be a successful year for our members because most of them operate globally, and the services provided by IFIA members are vital to global trade. Chinese manufacturing, the US economy and some other areas are showing promising growth which provides opportunities for member companies.

IFIA's membership now stands at 40. The Council has decided to maintain members' subscription levels at the same level for the eighth successive year.

I would like you to join me in welcoming Karina Engstrom Nielsen of Baltic Control to the IFIA Council as a 'C' member representative.

Richard Nelson, President, IFIA Council

The Director General's Report

At the IFIA Council Meeting and AGM, which was held in Cologne in December 2011, it was unanimously agreed to remove the Council's subjective discretion over the acceptance of new members who meet the membership criteria. These requirements can be found in Council Regulation 1. This is now subject to review following Council's decision to invite IFIA's Sector Committees to develop Codes of Practice to be followed by members when operating in the sector. There will be an IFIA-wide consultation on this.

Following the success of last year's Risk Management Seminar, we plan to hold a further related event in London in September. We will be circulating the membership with details of this soon. As previously, the seminar will be held under the auspices of the Legal Committee. If in the meantime you would like further details, or have ideas concerning themes you would like the seminar to address, please contact Hilary on hre@ifia-federation.org.

The Membership renewal declaration forms which have now been received are providing us with up to date information on the sectors in which members are active. It is our intention to facilitate participation by as wide a membership as possible in the activities of the Committees, either directly or as a corresponding member. If you would like further information please contact either Hilary or me.

Roger Brockway, Director General (roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org)

Committee Updates

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The Government Services Committee is in the process of completing a new Code of Practice which it is intended will be mandatory for IFIA members engaged in CBCA.

Agriculture

The Agricultural Committee has unanimously approved its second Bulletin, which is designed to protect members when they are required to report that consignments are 'free from' harmful defects. The Bulletin establishes limits to the IFIA member's responsibility and you can view a copy of this Bulletin on the IFIA website (www.ifia-federation.org) The Committee is currently considering a number of other issues, including its stance in relation to the use in contracts of the term 'sound loyal and merchantable'. Preparatory work for the introduction of an Edible Oils Inspector Certification Programme is continuing, with the formal support of FOSFA. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Agricultural Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Food

Members of the Food Committee have been invited to consider whether any new food-related issues could be better dealt with by the Committee rather than by individual members. In the meantime the activities of the committee have been suspended and the chairmanship is vacant. If you would like further information regarding the Food Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Consumer and Industrial Products (CIPC)

Following the reconstitution of this committee at a senior level, the Committee is developing a new position paper. The purpose of this repositioning is to better identify the value that the 'CIPC service' provides to members' customers through the whole supply chain. The Committee's top level objective is lobbying. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the CIPC please contact maarten.vanderdussen@ifia-federation.org.

Trade Security

IFIA's Council has decided that any activity in this field should now come under the Government Services Committee.

Government Services

The Government Services Committee is in the process of completing a new Code of Practice document for the general service which is offered by member companies under a number of descriptors, but which the Committee has agreed to term 'Consignment Based Conformity Assessment' (CBCA). The Committee intends the contents of the document to be mandatory for IFIA members who engage in provision of this service. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Government Services Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Industrial Services

Following a review of IFIA's potential scope in the field of industrial services, IFIA's Council has recommended reconstitution of this committee. Proposals relating to these actions are currently under development. If you would like further information regarding the proposed activities of the Industrial Services Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Committee Updates

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An IFIA Risk Management Seminar will be held in London on September 20 and 21, to which a number of customers will be invited.

Metals and Minerals

The Metals and Minerals Committee continues to work on guidelines with particular reference to sampling. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Metals and Minerals Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Petroleum

The Petroleum Inspector Certification Programme continues to expand, with over 1000 candidates from over 40 countries having taken the examination during 2011. In the US, the examinations are now taken on-line and it is intended to expand this facility to other parts of the globe during 2012. Details of all examination schedules are now available through the IFIA website (<http://www.ifia-federation.org>), following the merger of the Americas site with the main IFIA site in late 2011. The Committee continues to work on Safety Guidelines, which will set out which areas member companies' training should address in this field. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Petroleum and Petrochemicals Committee, please contact paul.harrison@melvcon.co.uk.

Legal

The IFIA Legal Committee has recently given advice to the Sector Committees in relation to the signing of disclaimers and indemnities. It is currently overseeing a major review of the IFIA Guidelines in conjunction with the Chairs of certain of the Committees, and is in the process of planning a further Risk Management Seminar, to which a number of customers will be invited, and which will be held in London on 20 and 21 September this year. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Legal Committee, please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Compliance

A sub group of this Committee, which is considering Social Auditing issues in China, held a successful meeting with customers in Hong Kong in late 2011. This sub group is considering organising further seminars, probably in Europe and North America, during the course of this year. The full Committee is currently considering whether improvements can be made in IFIA's Agreed Upon Procedures (AUPs) for Compliance Reporting. For further information regarding the activities of the Compliance Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Accreditation

IFIA's Accreditation Committee is continuing to work closely with CEOC in relation to matters of mutual interest and concern. This has led to a successful partnership working in ISO to achieve a text for the revision of ISO/IEC 17020, the standard for Inspection Bodies. We have also agreed a common position and strategy in relation to ILAC (the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation) which now has responsibility for the harmonisation of national accreditation practices in the field of inspection. If you would like further details regarding the activities of the Accreditation Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Market Intelligence

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It is intended to forge further links with CEOC, particularly in relation to the communication of safety information.

Market Intelligence

ISO/CASCO – The 27th ISO/CASCO plenary meeting was held in Geneva on 6 and 7 October 2011. As an A-liaison member, IFIA briefed the plenary on the use of ISO/IEC 17020 for commodity inspection bodies and on the extensive demand for social auditing services which is being met by non-standard solutions.

ISO/IEC - WG 29 (certification of products) has reached the DIS (draft international standard) stage for ISO/IEC 17065. The ballot for this DIS closed on 26 October 2011 and has been approved by a majority of members. The working group will meet in Munich at the end of February and it is expected the document will progress to the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) stage.

WG 31 (inspection) – DIS 17020 has now proceeded to the FDIS stage, with the FDIS ballot starting on November 17 and running for two months. The standard is planned for publication in early 2012.

WG32 (conformity assessment - fundamentals of product certification and certification schemes) – Following a review of comments during a three day meeting in October, it was unanimously agreed to progress ISO/IEC 17067 to the Committee Draft stage. Voting opened in mid November and will run for a four month period. The group will meet at the end of April to address members' comments.

WG 33 (third-party audit reporting) – this group met from 24-25 November to review comments received on the Draft Technical Specification for ISO/IEC 17022. The Technical Specification is planned for publication in early 2012 and is intended for incorporation in ISO/IEC 17021 at its next revision.

If you would like details of IFIA's engagement in any of these activities, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

IAF/ILAC – It was intended that both IFIA and CEOC would be present at the first meeting of the ILAC Inspection Committee on 5 November and that they would support one another in their joint stance, which is that the new 17020 should start to be implemented without guidance, but that the role of the ILAC Inspection Committee should be to develop whatever guidance is found to be needed through experience of its use. However, the series of IAF/ILAC meetings that were scheduled to take place in Bangkok from 2-11 November were cancelled due to the severe flooding problems in Thailand at that time. IFIA will continue to engage with ILAC to achieve appropriate, unbureaucratic and not over-interventionist accreditation practices for inspection. .

CEOC - IFIA attended the CEOC joint Communications Expert Group in December and it is intended to forge further links in this field, especially in relation to the communication of safety information. CEOC is planning to hold a Safety Seminar in Brussels on 6 and 7 November. For further information please visit the CEOC website at www.ceoc.com.

Membership and Admin Update

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Karina Engstrom Nielsen has been elected to IFIA's Council as the new 'C' member representative.

Membership

IFIA membership currently stands at 40. A number of companies engaged in the application process are close to meeting the membership requirements, so there is likely to be a further increase in IFIA membership in 2012.

Administration Update

Council Membership - Following the purchase of the Stewart Group by the ALS Group John Notman-Watt has stood down from the IFIA Council. Following an election, he was succeeded as one of the two 'C' member representatives by Karina Engstrom Nielsen of Baltic Control Ltd.

Amendment to IFIA's membership selection process – The proposed change to the IFIA Articles of Association, to remove the Council's absolute discretion over the selection of new members, was unanimously approved by IFIA's AGM on 1 December. The amended Articles now reflect our practice, which is that Council accepts applicants who can demonstrate that they meet IFIA's requirements. See Council Regulation 1, 'Becoming a Member', which is available in the IFIA Membership section of our website.

Status of IFIA Documents – The Petroleum, Agricultural and Minerals Committees are each in the process of revising the long-established IFIA Guidelines that apply to provision of services in their respective sectors. IFIA's Council has endorsed their combined recommendation that they do this to a common pattern agreed by the Legal Committee, setting out in mandatory terms what is expected of an IFIA member company in the sector. There will be wide consultation throughout the membership of IFIA on the development of these documents. Other sector committees are being asked to give consideration to developing similar documents. Please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org for further information.

New IFIA logo- Our logo is now protected as a trademark throughout the EU, and we are proceeding to do the same in the USA. Please contact hre@ifia-federation.org for further information about the ways in which members can use the new logo.

Membership Renewal Declarations – These were sent to Members in early January and returns were due by 20 January. Following receipt of all returns, we will review the membership of our various committees to ensure that all companies operating in these areas receive all relevant information.

Upcoming Events

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Upcoming Events – *please note all IFIA events are shown in blue*

<i>IFIA Government Services Committee</i>	<i>7 February, London</i>
GFSI Conference	15-17 February, Orlando
WCO Capacity Building Committee	27 Feb-2 March 2012, Brussels
ISO/CASCO WG 29	27-29 February, Munich
<i>IFIA CIP Committee</i>	<i>20 March, Washington</i>
<i>IFIA Americas Committee Board</i>	<i>23 March, Washington</i>
<i>IFIA Petroleum Committee</i>	<i>26 March, Houston</i>
<i>IFIA Petroleum ART Committee</i>	<i>27 March, Houston</i>
ISO-ILAC-IAF Joint WG	29 March, Geneva
<i>IFIA Petroleum AAE Committee</i>	<i>3 April, Antwerp</i>
<i>IFIA Agricultural Committee</i>	<i>4 April, London</i>
EUROLAB General Assembly	18-20 April, Prague
<i>IFIA Legal Committee</i>	<i>23 April, Paris</i>
<i>IFIA Compliance Committee</i>	<i>24 April, Paris</i>
ISO/CASCO WG32	25-27 April, Geneva
EA Advisory Board	26 April, Brussels
CEOC General Assembly	12-15 May 2012, Madrid
EA General Assembly	24-25 May, Madrid
<i>IFIA CIP Committee</i>	<i>6 June, Frankfurt</i>
GAFTA Annual Dinner	7 June, London
<i>IFIA Council Meeting</i>	<i>21 June, Geneva</i>
FOSFA Oils and Fats Meeting	6 September, London
FOSFA Oilseeds Meeting	7 September, London
<i>Risk Management Seminar</i>	<i>20-21 September, London</i>
ISO/CASCO Plenary Meeting	11-12 October, Bogota
ILAC/IAF Conference	15-24 October, Rio de Janeiro
FOSFA AGM and Annual Dinner	1 November, London
CEOC Safety Seminar	6-7 November, Brussels
<i>IFIA Council Meeting and AGM</i>	<i>29 November, Paris</i>
FOSFA Oils and Fats Dinner	6 December, London