

IFIA NEWSLETTER

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Message from the President

There have been a number of discussions about the ways in which IFIA and CEOC might work more closely together and a joint meeting of IFIA and CEOC members was held in Cologne on November 11th of this year. The membership of each organisation is now considering the ways in which this initiative can be progressed, including the merging of our secretariats. I believe there are clear benefits to the proposed secretariat merger, so long as there is a single reporting line which will ensure that different agendas are not being followed by the two bodies representing the members of the TIC sector. We will continue to work towards this goal, without losing sight of our current objectives. As you will see from this newsletter, IFIA has accomplished much in recent months.

I am delighted to once more announce further growth in our membership, with one new A member, DEKRA and three new C members – E.QU.A , V-Trust and Mitra - joining IFIA. The constant stream of companies wishing to join our association illustrates the value to our members of the work performed by IFIA.

Richard Nelson, President, IFIA

The Director General's Report

IFIA continues to extend its global outreach. In addition to our Social Auditing networks in both China and India, we have in recent months conducted a series of lobbying visits with key EU and Indian officials and are undertaking a major lobbying exercise in the US in relation to grain inspection. Please see the Agricultural Committee section of this newsletter for further details.

The Agricultural Inspector Certification Scheme for Liquid Cargos is now operational for IFIA members only. The scheme will be opened to non-members once the trial period is over.

As a result of our close working relationship with CEOC, IFIA co-sponsored the 5 November 2014 Safety Seminar in Brussels. The results of the 2014 Consumer Product Safety Study were announced at this conference. The results, which included for the first time a review of a range of US as well as European consumer products, once more illustrated the benefits of third party testing. The results presentation can be found on the IFIA website.

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

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IFIA continues to expand its global outreach with four new members joining our association, based in Germany, China, India and Italy respectively.

Committee Updates

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The Agricultural Inspector Certification Scheme for liquid cargoes has now gone live for IFIA members. The scheme will be opened to non-members when the trial period has ended.

Agriculture

The Agricultural Inspector Certification programme for liquid cargoes has now gone live for IFIA members. The scheme will be opened to non-IFIA members once the trial period has ended. The Agricultural Bulletin 'Fit for Human Consumption' has been amended. Please see the IFIA website for the updated version, which is relevant to all IFIA companies operating in this area. The Agricultural Committee is working with the US Grain Exporters (NAEGA) regarding an opportunity to persuade the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to open up grain inspection for export to the private sector. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Agricultural Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Food

The Food Committee is reviewing ways in which it can work with GFSI's auditor competence group, which is reviewing the training and certification of food auditors. A trial project is underway for olive oil, which aims to identify tests that might be used to certify the origin of products. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Food Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Consumer and Industrial Products (CIPC)

The results of the 2014 Consumer Product Safety study, which includes products sourced from both EU and US markets, were announced at the IFA-CEOC-Eurolab Safety Seminar in Brussels on 5 November 2014. CEOC co-funded this year's study. The results once more confirmed the benefits of third party testing. The CIPC now meets jointly with CEOC representatives. Along with CEOC, CIPC members are investigating the degree of support for removal of the CE marking from consumer products and the conditions under which some form of European Safety Tested Mark would be acceptable. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the CIPC please contact maarten.vanderdussen@ifia-federation.org.

Government Services

Following introduction of the Conformity Based Commodity Assessment (CBCA) Code of Practice for IFIA members, an annual list is now published on the IFIA website of those companies who have a valid audit report for such activities. The December 2013 WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation did not open for signature in July as previously anticipated. Section 5 of this Agreement states that Members (of the WTO) shall not require the use of pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Government Services Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Industrial Services

A possible 'quality CE mark' for IFIA members active in the area of Pressure Equipment is under consideration by an Industrial Services Committee working group. A further working group is considering interoperability protocols and communication in relation to the Smart Grid market. If you would like further information regarding the proposed activities of the Industrial Services Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

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Metals and Minerals

A sector specific Code of Practice is now in place for all IFIA members active in the Metals and Minerals area. A copy of this Code of Practice can be downloaded from the IFIA website. A working group is currently considering the development of criteria for laboratories offering Flow Moisture Point testing and a further working group is considering issues arising in relation to radioactivity testing. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Metals and Minerals Committee, please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Petroleum

The Americas Regional Technical Committee and Petroleum Subcommittee have now been merged. Meetings of the new committee are open to all members of the Petroleum Committee active in the USA. The new Code of Practice covering petroleum sector services is currently near finalisation. Administration of the Inspector Certification Programme is now being conducted on a global basis. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Petroleum and Petrochemicals Committee, please contact paul.harrison@melvcon.co.uk.

Legal

The Legal Committee is currently drafting an explanatory document relating to the scope of TIC services in the legal context. On completion this will be posted on the IFIA website. The Legal Committee is also currently reviewing the possible organisation of a Legal or Risk Management Seminar for IFIA members in early 2015. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Legal Committee, please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Compliance

The Compliance Committee is currently considering an amendment to the IFIA Compliance Code regarding the integration of newly acquired companies into a Group's Compliance Programme and an amendment to the annual declaration renewal form is possible. For further information regarding the activities of the Compliance Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Accreditation

The IFIA Accreditation Committee has direct representation on the ISO CASCO Working Groups to revise ISO/IEC 17011 and 17025 which deal with accreditation bodies and testing/calibration laboratories respectively. IFIA also currently has a seat on the Advisory Board to the European Accreditation Co-operation (EA). If you would like further details regarding the activities of the Accreditation Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Social Auditing

The IFIA Council has agreed that this group should now have the status of a full Committee. A revised 'Handbook of Integrity Operating Procedures' has been produced and is available on the IFIA website. A Code of Practice is under development and a proposal to develop a professional association for social compliance auditors within IFIA. If you would like further details regarding the activities of the Social Auditing Group, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.



Handbook of Integrity Operating Procedures for companies involved in Social Auditing is now available on the IFIA website.

Market Intelligence

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Lobbying – Consumer Product Safety Regulation (CPSR) – An EU ministerial discussion which was scheduled for late September has been postponed until December, which is likely to delay the start of inter-institutional negotiations until 2015. IFIA is using this delay to meet with stakeholders regarding the Market Surveillance of Products Regulation (MSPR).

Trans Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – The seventh round of negotiations was held in Washington in late September/early October. IFIA continues to meet with key individuals in order to explain the importance of third party testing, inspection and certification and those issues that might arise from regulatory convergence.

EU-China Relations – DG Trade has published a report on ‘Measures and Practices Restraining Foreign Investment in China’. Chinese Compulsory Certification restrictions appear to have been loosened so that foreign-invested bodies can perform certification tasks under equal treatment conditions with domestic certification bodies. IFIA is monitoring the progress made by its members and has met with the unit in DG Entr responsible for dialogue with the Chinese market surveillance authority AQSIQ.

ISO/CASCO – The ISO/CASCO plenary took place in Geneva, Switzerland during the week of 22 September. CASCO agreed to develop educational brochures on Suppliers Declaration of Conformity and on Scheme Development for Certification of Persons. A stakeholders’ forum on conformity assessment is under discussion.

WG 32 (revision of ISO/IEC Guide s 28 and 53, ISO/IEC 17026, model scheme for certification of manufactured products) – A committee draft ballot closed in September and the document has been approved.

WG42 (revision of ISO/IEC 17011, Conformity assessment – general requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies). A first meeting of this group was held in November. IFIA has direct representation on this working group.

WG44 (revision of ISO/IEC 17025 – General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories). The first meeting of this group will take place in February 2015. IFIA has direct representation on this working group.

Revision documents relating to ISO 9001 were issued in August and can be viewed on the ISO website.

IAF/ILAC – The 28th IAF Annual General Assembly took place in Vancouver in October 2014. Amongst other resolutions, ISO/IEC 17021 – 1:2015 (Conformity Assessment – Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems) was endorsed as a normative document. The transition period will be two years from the date of publication.

CEOC – A further joint CEOC-IFIA-Eurolab Safety Seminar ‘How safe do you think you are? Why testing is important.’ took place in Brussels on 5 November 2014. Marcello Manca of UL (a joint IFIA and CEOC member) presented the findings of the 2014 IFIA/CEOC Consumer Products Survey, which included for the first time products sourced in the USA. IFIA continues to work closely with CEOC, particularly in relation to EU matters. For further information about CEOC please visit the CEOC website at www.ceoc.com.

Membership and Admin Update

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Membership

IFIA welcomes DEKRA, who has joined IFIA as an A member and also E.Q.U.A S.r.l., Italy, V-Trust Inspection Service, China and Mitra SK Private Limited, India, who have all joined IFIA as C members. This brings the total number of IFIA members to 48. One company (Abeni) has resigned its IFIA membership due to compliance reporting issues.

A number of other companies are at various stages in the application process for IFIA membership.

Administration Update

IFIA's Social Auditing Integrity Procedures have been revised and the new document is now available on the IFIA website. The new Metals and Minerals Committee Code of Practice, is also available on our website at www.ifia-federation.org.

Please note that the IFIA Agricultural Inspector Certification Scheme for liquid cargos is now operational for IFIA members only. The scheme will be opened to non-members when the trial period is over.

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

IFIA Metals and Minerals Committee

1 December, St Helens

IFIA CIP Committee

2/3 December, Brussels

FOSFA Oils and Fats Dinner

4 December, London

GAFTA Annual General Meeting

22 January, London

IFIA Social Auditing Sub-Committee

21-22 January, London (tbc)

IFIA Food Committee

3 February, Berlin

IFIA Legal Committee

9/10 February, London

IFIA Compliance Committee

9/10 February, London

IFIA Agricultural Committee

19 March, London

ILAC/IAF Mid Year Meeting

9/16 April, Frankfurt

IFIA Industrial Services Committee

20 April, London

IFIA Government Services Committee

21 April, London

IFIA Petroleum Committee

24 April, Houston

EA Advisory Board

15 April, Brussels

IFIA Council Meeting

12 June, Beijing, China

ISO General Assembly

16/18 September, Seoul

ILAC/IAF Joint Annual Meeting

28 October – 6 November, Milan

ISO/CASCO Plenary Meeting

April/May 2016, UAE