

IFIA NEWSLETTER

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We would like to encourage greater participation from our smaller member companies.

Message from the President

The role of smaller member companies within IFIA's Committee structure has been a subject of discussion in Council for some time. A glance at the membership of our various Committees confirms that it is indeed the A and B members who are the most active participants. The view has frequently been expressed however that the participation of smaller companies imposes a disproportionate burden on them, both in terms of cost and time, when compared with the resources available to larger members. Nevertheless, it is frequently the smaller members who can benefit most by achieving a greater awareness of the issues under consideration. We would like to encourage greater participation from our smaller member companies and would like to enter in to a dialogue with them as to how this could be achieved. If you have any views on this matter, please contact the Director General, Roger Brockway, on roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Richard Nelson, President, IFIA Council

The Director General's Report

Over the last few months, IFIA has been pursuing the interests of its members in a number of diverse ways. For example, IFIA's guidance to its Committees on competition law has been expanded to address developments in both EU and US law. A group has also been formed to plan and take collective action in relation to social auditing in China, an area which has been of concern for some time to members active in this region. It is envisaged that recommended new industry practices and codes of conduct may result from the activities of this group. We have also widened our approach to and representation at some ISO/IEC working groups, most notably in relation to ISO 17020, so that the interests of all of IFIA's constituency can be represented. To this end, we have formed a new Accreditation Committee which will become active from Autumn 2010 onwards. If you would like further information about any of the above issues, please do not hesitate to contact me on roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Roger Brockway, Director General

Committee Updates

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Work is currently underway in the Agricultural Committee to assess the feasibility of an Inspector Certification Scheme.

Agriculture

The Agricultural Committee is continuing its work in relation to certifying the statement of condition 'Fit for Human Consumption'. All members of the Committee have confirmed their general support for this policy. Work is also underway to assess the feasibility of an Inspector Certification Scheme, similar to that operated in the Petroleum sector, which would apply to vegetable oils. A delegate from the Agricultural Committee has been appointed to ISO's Technical Committee 34/SC2 (Oilseeds), including its Working Group on the revision of ISO 542. A delegate has also been appointed to SC11 (Oils and Fats). If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Agricultural Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Food

The objectives, mission and vision statements for this Committee have been agreed and are available on the IFIA website at (www.ifia-federation.org). A paper has also been produced entitled 'Food Safety Certification – How to make effective use of the certification market'. This paper was used as part of IFIA's input to the Global Food Safety Initiative's Stakeholder Consultation. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Food Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Consumer and Industrial Products (CIPC)

The most recent CIPC survey of safety testing and factory inspections relating to four categories of product has reinforced previous findings that substantial numbers of these products reach the market which do not meet safety requirements. This Committee is in dialogue with the national administrations in certain European countries, in order to explore ways of using the expertise and resources of the private sector in support of the authorities' market surveillance activities. It is also taking the lead for IFIA on the implementation of the EU Regulation on 'accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products'. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the CIPC please contact maarten.vanderdussen@ifia-federation.org.

Trade Security

IFIA participated in the re-scheduled World Customs Organisation Capacity Building Committee from 27 to 29 September as an observer, as well as attending the World Customs Forum in October. As previously reported, the overall agenda for the Trade Security Committee currently rests with IFIA's new Government Services Committee, until it is judged that an opportunity has opened up for specific action. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Trade Security Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Government Services

This Committee has been following the progress of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation negotiations, especially in relation to Pre-shipment Inspections. Members of the Committee have commented to the WTO regarding the draft consolidated text, where it concerns the elimination of Pre-shipment Inspection. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Government Services Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Committee Updates

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Some of the work previously undertaken by the Systems Certification Committee is likely to fall within the scope of the newly formed Accreditation Committee.

Industrial Services

Senior representatives of the members of this Committee met in May to consider what common objectives the Committee could help them achieve. The importance of IFIA making a strong input to accreditation (EA in Europe and IAF/ILAC internationally) was stressed. This Committee continues to manage IFIA's liaison representation to ISO on the revision of ISO 17020, the standard for inspection bodies. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Industrial Services Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Metals and Minerals

The Metals and Minerals Procedures sub-committee is continuing its review of a range of operational matters to assess how best to standardise them for the future. An update on these activities will be issued in due course.

Petroleum

The Petroleum Committee is currently working on Safety Guidelines for inspectors and on Guidelines for customers' audits of members. Updates will be issued on the progress of these projects. The Petroleum Committee's inspector certification programme now covers about 3400 inspectors and work is underway with the aim that the examination process can be undertaken on line, globally. This Committee now operates through two Regional Technical Committees (RTCs), 'The Americas' and 'Africa, Asia and Europe'. If you would like further information regarding the activities of the Petroleum and Petrochemicals Committee, please contact paul.harrison@melvcon.co.uk.

Systems Certification

Some of the work previously undertaken by this Committee is likely to fall within the scope of the newly-formed Accreditation Committee. IFIA is also cooperating with the IIOC in this area. If you would like further information regarding the work of either the Systems Certification Committee or the new Accreditation Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Legal

The Legal Committee has recently reviewed the IFIA Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure and has confirmed its effectiveness as a means of resolving issues that could arise from adoption of tighter compliance measures. The Committee is also updating IFIA's Guidance to IFIA Committees on competition law, to expand its coverage to address developments in both EU and US law. The aim of this document is protect IFIA from its committees adopting positions that could be construed as anti-competitive. A Risk Management Seminar is planned for early 2011. All sector committees will be invited to participate in workshops that will address the risks associated with particular sectors. For further information regarding the activities of the Legal Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

IFIA Update

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A sub-group of IFIA's Compliance Committee is currently investigating aspects of Social Auditing in China.

Compliance

As a result of the issues that affect aspects of Social Auditing in China, a sub-group of the Compliance Committee has requested IFIA to assist them in planning and taking collective action that could lead to the adoption of new industry practices, codes of conduct and so on in this area. Any programme that is developed will be open to any IFIA member companies with activity in this field. For further information regarding the activities of the Compliance Committee please contact hre@ifia-federation.org.

Accreditation

IFIA's new Accreditation Committee will provide a forum where members debate and develop their input to accreditation standards and systems. The Committee will also manage IFIA's collective dialogue with the accreditation bodies. If you would like further details regarding the activities of the Accreditation Committee, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

Market Intelligence

New Tyre Labelling Legislation in EU – a mandatory tyre labelling system has been adopted by the European Parliament. The labels will show the tyre's fuel efficiency class and its wet grip and noise performance. This new measure is likely to affect the volume and type of inspection activity within the automotive sector.

EU Environmental Policy – A public consultation has taken place on the review of Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation. Responses were due by 24 September.

New European legislation is also expected to take effect from 2013 which will prevent illegally logged timber being sold in the EU.

ISO/IEC – IFIA is represented on the following International Standards Committees and is currently engaged in the development of standards in the following fields:

- ISO TC/8 Ships and Marine Technology. Topic: Supply chain security
- ISC TC/34 SC2 Oleaginous seeds and fruits and oilseed meals. Topic: Oilseed sampling and bulk commodity grain sampling
- ISO TC/34 SC11 Animal and vegetable oils and fats. Topic: Sampling
- ISO CASCO Conformity Assessment. Topic: Standards for all forms of conformity assessment body and for the practice of conformity assessment
- ISO CASCO WG 29 Requirements for certification bodies certifying products, processes and services. Topic: Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 65
- ISO CASCO WG 31 General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection. Topic: Revision of ISO/IEC 17020.

If you would like details of our engagement in any of these activities, or have suggestions for other areas of international standardisation where you think that the appropriate IFIA Sector Committee should consider active participation, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org.

New Members & Administration Update

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IFIA welcomes both CSA Group and Superinspect (Brazil) as members of the Association.

IAF/ILAC - These international co-operations between national accreditation bodies will be holding their joint Annual Meeting in Shanghai from 20 to 29 October. IFIA will participate in the IAF Task Force on Cross Frontier Accreditation, in the IAF/ILAC Joint Inspection Group and in the IAF General Assembly. If you would like details of any of these activities or have suggestions for IFIA participation in other aspects of the work that IAF or ILAC undertakes, please contact roger.brockway@ifia-federation.org. Please note that IFIA has a new Accreditation Committee which will manage this process. IFIA is an Associate Member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), which gives IFIA voting rights in policy areas.

GFSI – The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), which gives recognition to food safety schemes, is consulting on the revision of the Guidance Document that it uses for this purpose. IFIA has submitted comments and has also submitted its Food Committee Principles Paper as supporting evidence.

New Members

Two new members have recently joined IFIA. As a result, Mr Ash K Sahi, President and CEO of CSA Group (the Canadian Standards Association), has joined the IFIA Council. Superinspect Group (Brazil) has also joined IFIA. You can find further information about CSA at www.csa.ca and about Superinspect at www.superinspect.com.br.

IFIA – Administration Update

The by-laws of the IFIA Americas Committee have recently been revised so that it is now a tool that is available to all IFIA Committees. The Americas Committee provides a legal presence for IFIA for the employment of its contractors and so on in the US and is constituted as a legal entity for IFIA to act as a trade association in the US. All IFIA members active in the Americas have the right to membership, for which there is no additional cost. The Board of the Americas Committee consists of one representative from each of the IFIA Committees that makes use of its services in the US, one representative elected by the member companies and one person appointed by the IFIA Council.

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Upcoming Events

Accreditation Committee	1 October, London
Food Committee	6 October, Stuttgart
World Customs Forum	6-7 October, Istanbul
FOSFA Seminar	11 October, Istanbul
Petroleum Committee	12 October, London
Compliance Committee	14 October, London
Legal Committee	15 October, London
Government Services Committee	19 October, Paris
Eurolab Conformity Assessment Workshop	20 October, Brussels
IAF/ILAC	20-29 October, Shanghai
Petroleum Committee, AAE	27 October, Brussels
WCO Technology and Innovation Forum	2-4 November, Cairo
Agricultural Committee	3 November, Geneva
FOSFA Annual Dinner	4 November, London
EAAB CAB	9 November, Brussels
Petroleum Committee, Americas	10 November, Washington
14 th IACC Conference	10-13 November, Bangkok
GAFTA Dinner	17 November, Geneva
ISO/CASCO Plenary Meetings	18-19 November, Paris
PICARD Conference	23-25 November, Abu Dhabi
IFIA Council and AGM	30 November, London
GFSI Conference	16-18 February 2011, London