

# 2017 Highlight of IFIA activities



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RICHARD NELSON

## WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

2017 has been a year of transition for IFIA, with the move of the headquarters from London to Brussels, renewing the MoU for closer cooperation with our European sister organisation CEOC and the elaboration of advocacy plans in the US and India, IFIA is indeed transitioning to become a global platform representing the interests of the TIC industry.

This strategic overhaul has been made possible with the ongoing engagement of the captains of our industry and their teams giving their time, guidance and resources to take IFIA to the next level.

In this short report, we wish to give you a glimpse of the activities that have been carried out in 2017 by IFIA on your behalf. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who have given their time and dedication to work with us through the Committees, Task Forces and Technical Groups to help us speak on behalf of the TIC industry.



HANANE TAIDI

## FOREWORD

The core business of our industry is TRUST. As such, in IFIA, we are extremely proud to stand for an industry that is driven by the highest ethical standards to meet the demands of governments, industry and society at large.

It has been a privilege this year to work with the Strategy Task Force and the IFIA Council to formulate a vision and a mission for IFIA and bring to life this concept of an **“industry of trust”**.

As such, the action plan we will deploy in 2018 to translate the IFIA mission will be geared towards positioning our industry as a partner of trust and an ally to governments, industry and society. To such end, we will continue to work closely with our members through the Committees to advocate for a regulatory environment focusing on safety, to build a reputation of highest ethical standards for our industry and to produce content that showcases the know-how and competence of our industry in key strategic areas such as global trade or cybersecurity.

While 2017 has been a year of transition, we look at 2018 to be the year of implementation and consolidation. Therefore, we thank our members in anticipation of their support to help us reach key milestones in 2018.

# IFIA STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

During the 34th General Assembly, IFIA received the mandate to develop a strategic roadmap to ensure the long-term positioning of the organisation as the key global representative of the TIC industry, capable of addressing the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving regulatory and business environment. To such end, the Council nominated a Strategic Task Force that worked with the secretariat and the Council to develop a vision, mission and mid-term strategy for IFIA.

The mid-term strategy is framed within the following vision, mission and strategic goals:

## VISION

For IFIA to be recognised and trusted globally as the voice of the independent testing, inspection and certification industry, and for IFIA to stand for thought leadership, best practice and the highest standards in quality, health and safety, ethics and sustainability.

## MISSION

As the voice of the global independent testing, inspection and certification industry, IFIA engages governments and key stakeholders to advocate for effective solutions that protect the public, support innovation and facilitate trade. IFIA works with its members to promote best practices in quality, health and safety, ethics and sustainability in our industry.

The operational plan resulting from this strategy would enable IFIA to achieve the following results:

- Maximise the benefit of membership
- Raise the profile of the TIC industry with regulators, consumer organisations and other stakeholders.
- Speak independently on behalf of all members where a trade association is stronger or more credible than members speaking individually.
- Improve awareness about what the TIC industry does amongst key stakeholders.
- Respond proactively to emerging regulatory threats



STRATEGIC TASK FORCE GROUP AT WORK

# EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## EUROPE

### MEP AWARDS 2017

IFIA and CEOC International sponsored the Internal Market and Consumer Protection category at this year's MEP Awards ceremony. The MEP Awards night took place on 22 March in Brussels and brought together members of the European Parliament, the Commission and the EU Stakeholder community to celebrate the work and achievements of the Members of the European Parliament across a range of policy areas.

Hanane Taidi, Director General of IFIA, presented the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Award, which recognises the work of an MEP who has demonstrated excellence in furthering the operation of the Single Market towards unlocking prosperity, innovation, and enhancing competitiveness within the Union. It commends an MEP who has worked to reduce barriers to economic trade and simplify legislation to enhance competitiveness within the Union. Consumer product safety and the fight against counterfeiting are ranking high on the agenda of IFIA and CEOC International, and both associations follow the work of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee very closely. It was with pleasure that Hanane Taidi announced the winner of the IMCO category, Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, who was awarded for her outstanding work advocating the removing of obstacles for the establishment of the Single Market and empowering consumers.



HANANE TAIDI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IFIA



MEP ROBERTA METSOLA, MEP RÓZA GRÄFIN VON THUN UND HOHENSTEIN AND HANANE TAIDI, IFIA

## EPC SINGLE MARKET ROUNDTABLE

On 12th October, Hanane Taidi participated as a panellist in the Roundtable Discussion on 'How to improve the market surveillance and conformity assessment in the Single Market', organized by the European Policy Centre (EPC), highlighting IFIA's position on the topic and explaining the added value independent third-party CABs can bring to the table. Among the panellist were also representatives from the European Commission, Member States, Orgalime, CEN CENELEC and Schneider Electric. The roundtable was moderated by former MEP Malcolm Harbour, who is now EPC Senior Adviser and Chair of the Single Market Roundtable.



## MEMBER STATES OUTREACH

As part of the outreach strategy of the Public Affairs Committee meeting, requests were sent to all Permanent Representations of the EU Member States to discuss with them the role of independent third-party CABs, the weaknesses of the current market surveillance system in Europe and the proposed cybersecurity certification framework. So far, meetings took place with the Permanent Representations of the France, Bulgaria, Denmark, Czech Republic and Latvia. This outreach will continue throughout 2018.

## MEETING WITH DESPINA SPANOU, DIRECTOR, DIGITAL SOCIETY, TRUST AND CYBERSECURITY, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 9th November an IFIA delegation met with Mrs Despina Spanou (Director, Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity, European Commission) and her team to discuss IFIA and CEOC's position on the proposed cybersecurity certification framework and to present the TIC sector as a partner in the field of cybersecurity.

## EUROPOL IP CRIME CONFERENCE

IFIA Director General Hanane Taidi participated as a panellist in one of the sessions during the EUROPOL IP Crime Conference in Antwerp. This was an opportunity to discuss the role independent third-party certification can play in the fight against counterfeiting, to position IFIA's members as reliable partners in this fight and to develop relationships with key stakeholders.

## PROMOTION OF METALS AND MINERALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

To promote the activities of the Metals and Minerals Committee, and in particular their Transportable Moisture Limits Code of Practice (TML CoP), IFIA met with Intercargo (The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners) and IGP&I Clubs to identify possible areas of collaboration. A result of these meetings will be a stakeholder workshop in February 2018, where IFIA members will present the TML CoP and discuss further cooperation with Intercargo, IGP&I Clubs and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

## ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

IFIA met with FOSFA and GAFTA to promote the Agricultural Superintendent Certification Programme (currently only for fats and oils) and discuss a potential market need for a grains programme.

## AMERICAS

### PROMOTING IFIA AND THE INDEPENDENT TIC SECTOR

IFIA has carried out several activities in the Americas to promote the TIC sector, among which were engagements with NIST, ANSI, CPSC and ASCB. IFIA also partnered with ACIL for the 2017 Policies and Practices Conference in Washington, DC. where Hanane Taidi delivered a presentation on IFIA and our data collection efforts to promote the value of third-party conformity assessment which was warmly welcomed by the participants.

IFIA also presented its market survey results at the IEEE ISPC Symposium in San Jose, California, on 8th May and participated in the ICPHSO meetings in Orlando, Florida, where the infographics of the product safety studies were disseminated through the members.

### COOPERATION WITH U.S. POLICYMAKERS

IFIA regularly engages with regulators to present our views and offer our expertise. Several meetings took place in 2017. Below are a few highlights:

- **OSHA Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs):** meetings were held to introduce IFIA and discuss the NRTL program and a possible OSHA-IFIA alliance that would offer a platform for ongoing engagement between IFIA members and OSHA team as well as an opportunity to develop best practices for factory inspection and surveillance
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):** there are ongoing engagements to provide input to the development of a set of documents that provide guidance to federal agencies on the use of conformity assessment. IFIA is reinforcing the importance of documents remaining neutral and not promoting any specific conformity assessment method
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** engaged with FDA team and provided comments to support efforts to develop an Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment using FDA-recognized consensus standards to support pre-market reviews
- **Energy Star:** partnered with ACIL to leverage congressional outreach opposing the elimination of third-party certification for consumer electronics and reinforcing messaging that third-party certification is not a burden, but rather is key to maintaining the integrity of the Energy Star label. IFIA also conducted outreach to NGOs and other stakeholders

- **U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC):**

- Partnered with the CPSC to deliver international training seminars in China: one on Lithium-Ion Batteries and the other on Mechanical Hazards
- Meeting between CPSC staff and IFIA members to discuss technical interpretations of regulations and other issues
- Meetings with Acting Chair and Commissioners to provide an update on IFIA's activities globally and reinforce the value of TIC sector and messaging that third-party testing is not a burden

- **USTR and Department of Commerce:** ongoing meetings and briefings at the National Manufacturers of Association (NAM) on the status of the NAFTA negotiations and prospects for other bilateral relations (Korea, Japan, UK, EU)

## ENGAGEMENT WITH INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

IFIA reached out and established contacts with several industry stakeholders, such as NAM (National Association of Manufacturers), RILA (Retail Industry Leaders Association), AHRI (Air-conditioning, Heating and Refrigerator Institute), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American National Standards Institution (ANSI) and the North American Export Grain Association among others to introduce IFIA, discuss issues of common interest (trade, the Energy Star Program, various regulatory issues) and to hear their views on independent conformity assessment.

## ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES ON NAFTA

IFIA conveyed its views on NAFTA during an official hearing with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and other U.S. agencies. This opportunity was used to ensure that the TIC sector's views are conveyed to USTR as it develops its negotiation objectives which include, among others, the call for a horizontal approach to the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) chapter and for national treatment provisions for conformity assessment bodies operating in North America. This occasion also allowed IFIA to raise its profile with the trade community and to reinforce the TIC sector's importance in trade.



**JEFF GROVE (ASTM INTERNATIONAL), ANNE WEEKS (UL) AND IFIA DIRECTOR GENERAL HANANE TAIDI DURING THE NAFTA TESTIMONY**

IFIA also had meetings with Mexican officials at the Mexican embassy in Washington, D.C. and with Global Affairs Canada negotiators to introduce IFIA and present our position and key asks for the NAFTA renegotiation.

## OUTREACH IN CANADA

Several meetings with officials and stakeholders were organised in Canada to introduce and position IFIA and to discuss issues such as regulatory cooperation under CETA, NAFTA, and the role of independent conformity assessment. Meetings were held with the Standards Council of Canada, the Treasury Board Secretariat, Health Canada Consumer Product Bureau, Global Affairs Canada and with Natural Resources Canada.

## ANTI-COUNTERFEITING EFFORTS

IFIA reached out to several stakeholders to widen its network in the area of IP law enforcement. For this reason, IFIA participated in the International IP enforcement summit in New York and used this opportunity to position the independent TIC sector as a partner in the fight against counterfeiting. Contacts were also established with INTA and the Intellectual IP Center of the US Chamber of Commerce in order to identify opportunities for collaboration.

## CHINA

IFIA partnered with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at an international training seminar aimed at manufacturers, product developers and designers of Lithium-Ion Batteries. The seminar, attended by around 125 people, took place on May 16 in Shenzhen, China. IFIA also partnered with CPSC at the Mechanical Hazards training in Guangzhou, China, September 12, 2017, which was attended by more than 200 manufacturers. IFIA was represented by members from the Consumer and Industrial Product Committee, contributing with technical expertise and positioning the TIC industry as a partner to governments and industry in finding solutions to emerging hazards and enhancing product safety.

## INDIA

The meetings in India were requested and organised by the India working group in view of several developments going on in India with regards to trade regulations, the Standards Act revision and the Conformity Assessment rules. The objectives of the various stakeholders' meetings were to further the efforts of Regional IFIA Members, to move the needle to the next level with respect to the conformity assessment framework in India and to position IFIA as the face of the independent TIC Industry. To such end, a visit programme was set up and meetings with the following officials were organised: Minister Counsellor U.S Embassy, Joint Secretary Ministry of Health & Family, Joint Secretary to Prime Minister, CEO of the National Accreditation Board of Conformity Assessment Bodies, Secretary General Quality Council of India, Secretary Commerce Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Joint Secretary Department of Commerce, Chairman Quality Council of India, Director of NABCB, Secretary Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Additional Secretary and Director General, CGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Additional Secretary Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

## MEMBERSHIPS

IFIA is now a member of NAM (National Association of Manufacturers), which enables access to their Committee meetings and offers the possibility to actively contribute to their work (e.g. trade and regulatory / conformity assessment issues).

IFIA also joined EUROSAFE as a member, thereby getting access to injury data and the opportunity to increase its network of potential partners for a planned CIPC study on the socio-economic costs of non-compliant products.

# COOPERATION WITH SISTER ORGANISATIONS

## CEOC INTERNATIONAL

The MoU between IFIA and CEOC was renewed in March 2017. Since 1st February 2017, IFIA and CEOC are sharing office facilities and resources. A joint Committee on Public Affairs was set-up. The two associations publish a monthly joint Newsletter as well as topical Special Briefings. IFIA and CEOC are driving jointly an advocacy plan whereby they are holding meetings with Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and members states to share their common position on topics such as market surveillance and cybersecurity.



**CEOC SECRETARY GENERAL, DREW NIEUWENHUIS, CEOC PRESIDENT SIMO HASSI, IFIA PRESIDENT RICHARD NELSON, IFIA DIRECTOR GENERAL HANANE TAIDI**

## ACIL

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IFIA and ACIL. A plan of action and key advocacy initiatives in the US are being discussed to identify opportunities to align positions and speak with a single voice.

One of the fora where the cooperation with ACIL crystallised was the 2017 Policies and Practices Conference in Washington, DC. Around 100 U.S. laboratories were present to discuss a variety of policy topics on conformity assessment, environmental sciences and food sciences among others. IFIA's Director General, Hanane Taidi, delivered a presentation on IFIA and there was great interest and support for IFIA's messaging on the value of third-party conformity assessment.



**IFIA DIRECTOR GENERAL HANANE TAIDI AT THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES CONFERENCE**

## ASCB

The MoU with ASCB was renewed in March 2017 with the aim of continued cooperation in the field of agricultural products inspections.



## IEC

The CIPC Committee is developing a workplan to implement the MoU with IEC. A meeting with IEC took place on the 5th July. IEC is invited to attend the AGM conference and present their digital transformation plan.

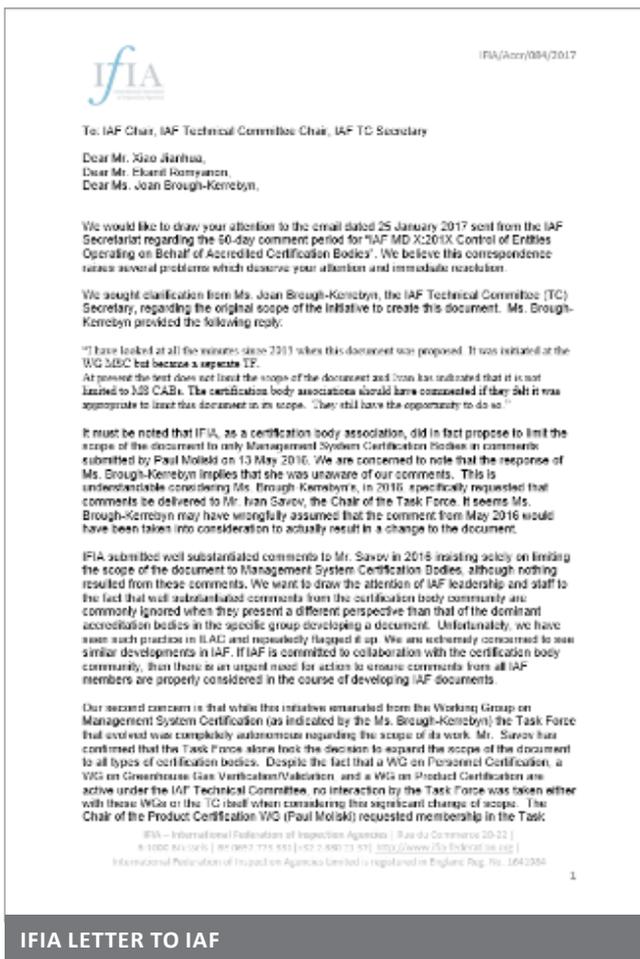
# COMMITTEES UPDATE

## HORIZONTAL COMMITTEES

### ACCREDITATION

The Accreditation Committee supports IFIA's representation on the ISO, IAF and ILAC Committees and working groups. The Committee organised a first a face-to-face meeting on 31st March, ahead of the IAF-ILAC mid-term meetings in Frankfurt.

IFIA sent a letter prepared by the Accreditation Committee to the IAF to express our concerns regarding the modifications made to the "IAF MD X:201X Control of Entities Operating on Behalf of Accredited Certification Bodies" document. The scope of this document was changed to include all types of certification bodies instead of only Management System CABs (as originally intended) without following proper oversight. Following IFIA's letter the IAF group working on this proposal limited the scope again to its original remit.



Paul Moliski (Intertek) and Christian Priller (TÜV SÜD) were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee. To leverage the resources of IFIA and CEOC, there is an opportunity to work jointly and increase the impact of our activities in the accreditation field by having a joint Committee for both organisations as agreed in the MoU.

### ANTI-COUNTERFEITING COMMITTEE

This group was formerly known as CIAC (the Certification Industry against Counterfeiting) and acted as an independent association. It has joined IFIA as one of its Committees and held its first meeting

on 21st June. The Committee elected a Chair and a Vice-Chair: Q VanBenschoten, Intertek and Katharina Seidel, TÜV Rheinland. The Committee has finalised its Terms of Reference and its work programme, and has now started drafting a Code of Best Practice and is planning engagement activities with law enforcement and customs authorities.

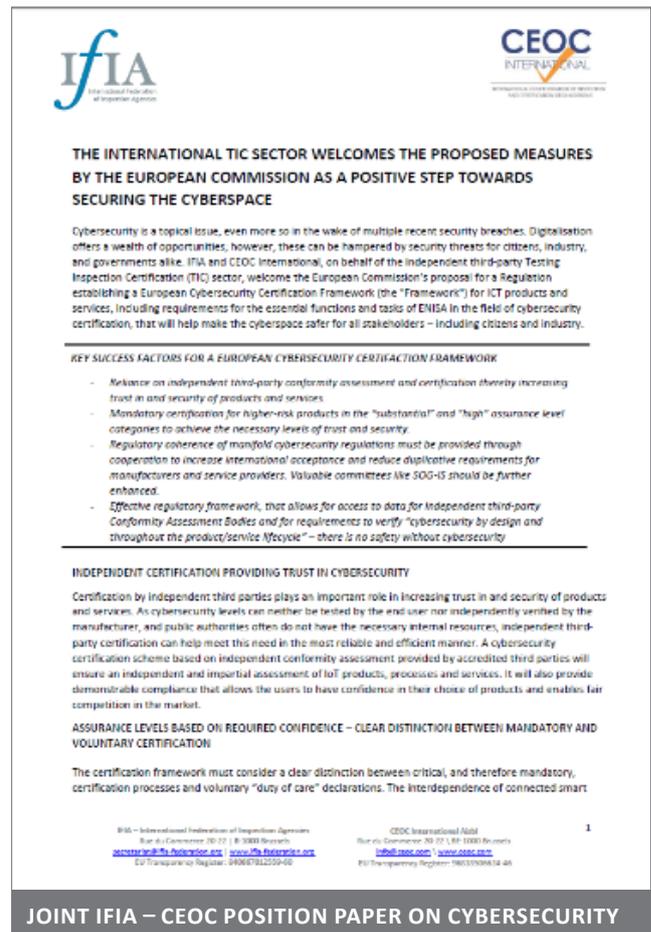
### IFIA-CEOC PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This joint Committee was set-up to develop an advocacy strategy for the TIC sector, identify areas where joint policy positions should be developed, monitor external trends and political activities to develop an aligned approach and to ensure coherence and coordination with the CEOC and IFIA Committees. Terms of Reference were developed. Mads Realmuto (UL) and Thomas Grusemann (TÜV Rheinland) were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair. The Committee has agreed on its priorities and has set up sub-groups to develop action plans for the respective priorities. The priorities are: Promotion of 3rd party testing, inspection and certification; Cybersecurity & Digital Single Market; Consumer Product Safety & Compliance of Products; Trade Agreements; Circular Economy / Sustainability; Energy Framework.

The working group on Cybersecurity has published two position papers, the latest one on the Cybersecurity Certification Framework proposed by the European Commission. Both the Cybersecurity and the Trade working group are now in the process of drafting White Papers to position the TIC sector as thought leaders.

### JOINT COMMUNICATIONS GROUPS

The group finalised the work on the Communication Messaging Toolkit. The Task Force thus has been dissolved and there is a proposal from the team to merge the Communications and Public Affairs Committees.



## LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Both Committees finalised their Committee Terms of References and have elected Chairs and Vice-Chairs: Mark Thomas (Intertek) and Björn Clüßerath (TÜV Rheinland) for the Legal Committee and Adrian Walker (Cotecna) and David Lappage (Bureau Veritas) for the Compliance Committee.

The Legal Committee has provided guidance on any legal issues arising in relation to the membership applications from Iran and recommended to reject such membership whilst sanctions are still in place. The Committee is also revising the IFIA Terms and Conditions of Business which limits the liability of members to ensure it is adequately updated to reflect current business requirements and framework. The Compliance Committee will review the compliance programme to update it and streamline its implementation.

## SECTOR COMMITTEES

### AGRICULTURAL AND VEGETABLE OILS

The Committee is working on the promotion of the IFIA Superintendent Certification Scheme. So far more than 500 candidates have been registered to take the exam.

In addition, the Committee has amended its Code of Practice, has finalised the IFIA Agriculture Committee leaflet and has extended the categories in the Fit for Human Consumption Brochure. The Committee continues to be actively involved in FOSFA (Federation of Oils, Seeds and Fats Associations) and GAFTA (Grain and Feed Trade Association). The Committee is considering an engagement strategy in the US via its local sub-Committee and thus meetings with NAEGA (North American Export Grain Association), producers' groups and USDA officials were organised to identify if there was a possibility of working together.

**Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee**

IFIA's Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee is one of a number of 'Sector Committees', operated by IFIA. Like all of IFIA's Committees, the Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee is bound by IFIA's Model Committee Rules, which have been approved by IFIA's Council. IFIA's Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee has additionally produced a sector-specific Code of Practice.

This Code of Practice is regularly reviewed and updated by the Committee and covers a number of areas including health and safety practices, sampling and quality inspection and letters of protest and letters of reprimand. Some of the IFIA member companies can be assured of the standards and substances they should expect from IFIA members.

The Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee has also issued a number of topic-specific bulletins. These bulletins cover a number of topics including the issuance of 'Fit for Human Consumption' and 'Fit for Feed' certificates, health certificates and details of such. The Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee Code of Practice and bulletins can be viewed and downloaded from the Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee page of the IFIA website: <http://www.ifia-federation.org/sectors/sector-committees/agricultural-and-vegetable-oils/>

The following companies are currently members of the IFIA Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Committee:

- Alex Stewart International – [www.alexstewartinternational.com](http://www.alexstewartinternational.com)
- AmSpec – [www.amspec.com](http://www.amspec.com)
- Bahr Center – [www.bahrcenter.com](http://www.bahrcenter.com)
- Bureau Veritas – [www.bureauveritas.com](http://www.bureauveritas.com)
- Cargo Inspection Group – [www.cargoinspection.com](http://www.cargoinspection.com)
- Corelab – [www.corelab.com](http://www.corelab.com)
- Control Union International – [www.controlunion.co.uk](http://www.controlunion.co.uk)
- Cotecna – [www.cotecna.com](http://www.cotecna.com)
- Dyer – [www.dyer.com](http://www.dyer.com)
- Eurochem – [www.eurochem.com](http://www.eurochem.com)
- Intertek – [www.intertek.com](http://www.intertek.com)
- IMC – [www.imc.com](http://www.imc.com)
- Kvaerner – [www.kvaerner.com](http://www.kvaerner.com)
- LSC – [www.lsc.com](http://www.lsc.com)
- SGS – [www.sgs.com](http://www.sgs.com)
- SCS – [www.scs.com](http://www.scs.com)
- UIC – [www.uic-inspection.com](http://www.uic-inspection.com)

### AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE LEAFLET

## METALS AND MINERALS

The Transportable Moisture Limit (TML) Code of Practice was published. The sub-Committee will now look at ways to introduce a round robin test. The Radioactivity Testing Bulletin will soon be finalised. It is planned to host a workshop together with Intercargo, IGP&I Clubs and the IMO on TML and Radioactivity testing.

March 2017

International Federation of Inspection Agencies  
Metals and Minerals Committee  
Transportable Moisture Limit Code of Practice

FIRST EDITION

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IFIA  
International Federation of Inspection Agencies

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**TML CODE OF PRACTICE**

## PETROLEUM AND PETROCHEMICALS

The Committee elected Graham Lees (Intertek) as Chair and Arthur Kay (SGS) as Vice-Chair. For the Africa-Asia-Europe RTC (Regional Technical Committee) Mark Harrison (Intertek) had been approved as Chair for a second term with David Gauci (Corelab) elected as Vice-Chair. For the Americas RTC David Magouirk (AmSpec) had been approved as Chair for a second term with Keith Jones (BV Inspectorate) elected as Vice-Chair.

A new sub-Committee (Laboratories Technical Committee) has been established with a global remit to address a growing number of issues relating to petroleum and petrochemical test methods; the chair is Chris McCullough (BV Inspectorate), with Joe Glennon (Intertek) as Vice-Chair.

Several technical bulletins were issued during 2016 and 2017 highlighting various technical and safety issues and stating the view of IFIA member companies.

The Inspector Certification Programme continues to grow with major clients requesting a proportion of certified inspectors at branches worldwide. Training requirements are to be extended in 2017 to include submission of field audit information (not detailed results). The provision of an "add-on" module for the ICP to cover chemicals is being considered by the Committee. In 2017 alone, more than 1500 candidates were registered to take the exams, 100 of them coming from non-IFIA member companies.

## FOOD

A further food safety, fraud and traceability study has been undertaken by the Food Committee. The Committee has established closer ties with IIOC and GFSI (the Global Food Safety Initiative) to work on issues related to auditor competence and the role of food audits. The possibility of developing a joint Code of Practice with IIOC for the food sector was discussed to address some of the concerns raised by GFSI regarding auditor competence. The Committee is in the process of developing Committee Terms of Reference.

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Committee continues to monitor the members' PSI and CBCA activities, in line with the WTO agreement. The Committee has finalised its Committee Terms of Reference and has elected Alexandre Schaffner (SGS) and Brian King (Intertek) as Chair and Vice-Chair.

## CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The CIPC consumer product market survey has proven to be an important advocacy tool, drawing attention to the critical role independent third-party CABs play in enhancing the compliance and safety of products. The results have been presented in various conferences and is constantly reinforced during engagement efforts with stakeholders. To make the study stronger and more meaningful, the Committee has agreed to establish a WG to define a strategy for future studies, including looking at socio-economic benefits of third-party, data on how TIC helps level the playing field for manufactures, the percentage of global trade flows enabled by TIC and the value of 3rd party for cybersecurity etc.

The Committee is working on a Code of Best Practice for the testing of some types of consumer goods with the goal of providing operational technical guidance on ISO / IEC 17025 to ensure more transparency of test reports issued by IFIA members. A communication strategy will be developed to be deployed once the Code is approved and implemented.

The Committee has established a standing IEC Working Group to develop a workplan for the implementation of the Memorandum with IEC and explore opportunities for closer collaboration. The WG has offered comments on the IEC Masterplan and is planning engagement with relevant stakeholders.

The Committee also organised meetings and briefing sessions with CETA negotiators to stay up-to-date on the status of the protocol on the mutual acceptance of conformity assessment results.

**CIPC Americas** identified and assessed priority issues for 2017, structured WGs to develop strategies and action plans for each of the priority issues and monitored the deployment of activities. Activities focused on developing positions and messaging and engaging with stakeholders. Priority issues are detailed in the engagement section above. Activities include ongoing meetings with policymakers and industry, NGOs and other stakeholders raising awareness and reinforcing the value-added of third-party conformity assessment as well as reinforcing that third-party is not a burden

## CHINA WORKING GROUP

During their first meeting in October 2017, the China Committee identified the need for IFIA to be present and active in China. At their May meeting, the group started developing Terms of References and

an action plan. Potential topics to be addressed could be:

- Market expansion/ access opportunities
- Inter-governmental trade/ investment negotiations
- Providing expertise and counsel on TIC sector related topics regarding China's reform and decentralization process
- Consumer protection/safety
- Best practice sharing regarding TIC sector in public forums through industry seminars, trainings, conferences
- Monitoring and contribution to the TIC legislation
- Pro-active involvement in free-trade zones test/imports in general
- Data security

Cyrus Ma (SGS) and Benjamin Shi (UL) were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair. For this Committee to become fully operational, IFIA will first need to set-up a legal presence in China. A proposal has been made to the Council for consideration.

Support to the members is also sought through engagement with USTR and DG Grow to seek their support for reciprocity and market access to the independent non-domestic CABs.



## INDIA WORKING GROUP

In view of several developments going on in India with regards to trade regulations, the standards act (BIS) revision and conformity assessment rules, the India Working Group believes there is an urgent need for advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the independent 3rd party CAB industry not only to create a favourable environment for the sector but also to ensure a level playing field. To such end, IFIA Director General Hanane Taidi went to New Delhi and met, together with the members, key stakeholders to address concerns and offer solutions from the TIC sector. In order to develop a proper work programme, an India Steering Committee has been nominated by the Council.



# MEMBERSHIP

## 2017 NEW MEMBERS

In 2017 the following companies joined IFIA:

CERINS Group (South Korea), Inspectorate East Africa (Kenya), NMK Resources (USA), Quality Inspection Services (Japan) and Rochem Inspectors (Egypt).

## ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Throughout the year IFIA Director General Hanane Taidi had several meetings with CCIC officials to discuss the progress CCIC is making in terms of developing and implementing a compliance program in order to become a full member.



**IFIA DIRECTOR GENERAL HANANE TAIDI TOGETHER WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE CCIC INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION DIVISION, XIANGYUE KONG**

## LIST OF MEMBERS

### FULL MEMBERS

Alex Stewart International  
Alfred H Knight International Ltd  
AlmatyExpertise Ltd  
ALS Group  
AmSpec LLC  
AsiaInspection Ltd  
Baltic Control Ltd. Aarhus  
Bureau Veritas SA  
Camin Cargo Control  
Cargo Inspections Group  
CERINS Group  
Certispec Group  
CIS Commodity Inspection Services  
Coastal Gulf & International, Inc. (CGI)  
Control Union International  
Control Union  
Control Quality Inspecoes Analises e Servicos Ltda  
Cotecna Inspection SA  
CSA Group  
Cugnier Certificadora  
CWM Survey and Inspection BV  
DEKRA SE  
Engineering Bureau Franke International  
E.QU.A. Srl  
Geo-Chem Group

Helmsman Quality & Technology Services Co Ltd  
Independent Inspection Services LLC  
Inspectorate East Africa  
"Inspekt RGH" d.o.o.  
Integrated Inspection & Surveying  
Intertek Group Plc  
International Marine Experts – IME  
Japan Export Vehicle Inspection Center Co. Ltd (JEVIC)  
KCS Group of Companies  
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Mitra S.K Private Ltd  
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NMCI Group of Companies  
NMK Resources, Inc.  
Oil Test Internacional Latin America Holding Co  
Overseas Merchandise Inspection Company Ltd  
PT Carsurin  
PT Superintending Company of Indonesia (SUCOFINDO) Perseo  
Quality Inspection Services Inc. Japan  
Ravi Energie Group  
RRMG Ltda  
RINA Group  
Rochem Inspectors  
Saybolt International BV  
Seatrans Consulting Ltd  
SGS Société Générale de Surveillance SA  
SGT Service (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
SOEX (ANO "SOYUZEXPERTIZA CCI RF")  
Superinspect Group  
TÜV Rheinland Group  
TÜV SÜD Group  
UL Inc.  
Universal Inspectorate & Services Co Ltd  
V-Trust Inspection Service Co. Ltd  
Viglienzone Adriatica S.r.l.

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