



2023

Year in Review



NSAI



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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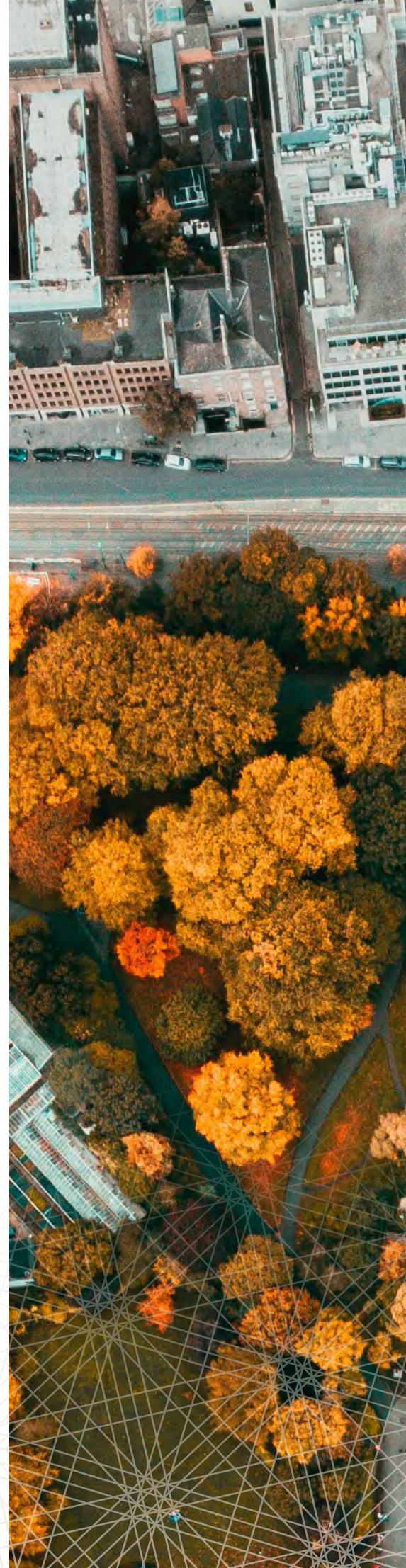
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NSAI: Driving improvement and innovation for Ireland's future

Innovating to shape a **safer, better and sustainable future**, the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is Ireland's official standards body.

For nearly 30 years, we've delivered **standardisation, certification and measurement services** on behalf of the Irish state.

Reporting to the Minister of Employment Affairs and Retail Business at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, we're a business improvement partner — helping Irish businesses to innovate and grow on a global stage.

Our clients include Irish SMEs and multinational businesses across 30 countries. We help them to:

- + innovate
- + compete internationally
- + comply with relevant standards, laws and regulations
- + continuously improve

Discover how we help propel organisations to success:

Ireland: [NSAI.ie](https://www.nsi.ie)

UK: [NSAI.uk](https://www.nsi.uk)

Global: [NSAIinc.com](https://www.nsiinc.com)

Empowering Irish organisations: 2023 in numbers

Standards and standards development



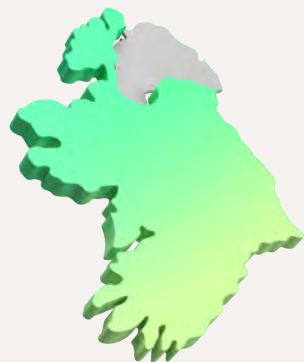
258,128
standards
viewed/downloaded



1,372
standards
published

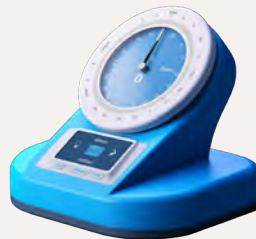


243
new committee
members welcomed



6,770
premises visited
across Ireland

Legal metrology



24,607
trade instruments
inspected

The science of measurement through the National Metrology Laboratory



5,200
calibration certificates
issued by NML to 420
companies

515
research days completed by
measurement scientists for
European research programmes



20
NML training courses delivered,
attended by 74 Irish companies

Certification

through NSAI, NSAI Inc and
NSAI Certification UK



2,935
audit days completed
for medical device
certifications



9,051
motor vehicle
products approved



409
new management
system certificates
issued



989
construction products
approved



320
insulation
installers
registered



25
new client companies
served through NSAI
Certification UK,
including UKCA marking



9
new MMC certificates
published, including revisions
to existing certificates*



19
new MMC
(Modern Methods
of Construction)
enquires received*

*NSAI's new Modern Methods of Construction Unit was established in June 2023, within the Certification Division

Realising ambitious change: Hear from our Chairperson & CEO



James Kennedy
Chairperson



Geraldine Larkin
CEO

Moving beyond planning to action

NSAI's strategic plan (2022-2026) outlines our ambitious goals, which focus on:

- + Irish SME growth
- + climate action and sustainability
- + digital transformation
- + medical technology (medtech) growth
- + the built environment, meeting commitments to the Housing for All policy

In 2023, we saw numerous key objectives come to fruition, thanks to intensive groundwork and collaboration by colleagues, our board, department officials, committee members and other key stakeholders.

As a result, we succeeded in:

- + Achieving designation under the **In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (IVDR)** to conduct conformity assessments and grant CE-marked certificates to the medical device sector.
- + Launching a **new certification scheme in Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)**, in support of Housing for All.
- + Publishing Ireland's first **Artificial Intelligence Standards and Assurance Roadmap**, under the National AI strategy.
- + Certifying Irish-made construction products with the **UKCA mark** for the first time, to place into the UK market.
- + Rolling out Ireland's first-ever **National Timing Grid**, to ensure near-real-time tracking of clock stability against Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).
- + Launching **the Retrofit Collection of standard recommendations**, to guide sustainable and efficient building upgrades.
- + Inspecting over **24,000 trade instruments**, from glassware in licenced premises to weighing scales in supermarkets.
- + Establishing **two new centres of excellence**: a Climate Action and Sustainability Centre of Excellence and a Digital Transformation Centre of Excellence.
- + Developing NSAI's first **Climate Action Roadmap**, under the government's Climate Action Plan.

Helping implement European standardisation strategy

Keeping standardisation on the agenda of policymakers at the highest levels is vital. As Ireland's official standards body, we took our place at the inaugural High-Level Forum on European Standardisation in 2023, at the invitation of the European Commission.

Moreover, we celebrated Ireland's contribution to European standardisation at our annual Standards Forum and Awards in October 2023, introducing a special award to mark the 50th year of Ireland's EU membership.

The event's theme was the circular economy, linked to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We carry this enhanced focus on sustainability with us into 2024 and beyond. NSAI continues to embed sustainability into everything we do, to support the Climate Action Plan and the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.

A future-focused strategy: Where to from here?

As we face and embrace the challenges of the future, our work must continue to reflect key government and EU priorities. In implementing NSAI's strategic plan, we want to seize opportunities that contribute to Ireland's goals. Delivering on that plan for Ireland and our global business community is critical to our future success.

Enabling excellence: Our 2023 highlights

January 2023

Legal inspections at Dublin Airport

NSAI's Legal Metrology Inspectors started the new year in Dublin Airport, performing taximeter inspections.

European Standardisation Forum

NSAI attended the inaugural High-Level Forum on European Standardisation in Brussels, in support of the EU Strategy on Standardisation. The European Commission set up the Forum to bring expert stakeholders together to advise it on upcoming standardisation priorities.

Contributions from NSAI and fellow Forum members will help align standardisation work with wider EU objectives. This will foster a more green, digital, fair and resilient Single Market.

February 2023

Milestone: medical devices designation

NSAI achieved designation under the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (EU) 2017/746, making it one of only 10 notified bodies for IVDR in Europe. NSAI can now conduct conformity assessments and grant CE-marked certificates to medical device manufacturers, enabling them to access the European market.

Fisheries inspections

NSAI Legal Metrology Inspectors carried out inspections of Irish fisheries.

March 2023

Celebrating small business innovation

Marking the achievements of small businesses and highlighting Ireland's innovators, NSAI presented the Innovator of the Year category at the Small Firms Association's National Small Business Awards.

Building Better Business

NSAI promoted standards and certification to SMEs at eight Building Better Business (BBB) events throughout the year, organised by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. March marked the first event, in Donegal.

April 2023

Milestone: supporting exporters

NSAI subsidiary, NSAI Certification UK Ltd, achieved accreditation from UKAS — the UK Accreditation Service — under the UK Construction Products Regulation.

The UKCA mark allows exporters in Ireland to place, or continue to place, products on the market in England, Scotland and Wales.



April 2023

Milestone: food safety management

NSAI certified its 50th Irish food and drink business to FSSC 22000 in April. This ISO-based certification scheme for food safety management systems is recognised internationally and benchmarked by the Global Food Safety Initiative.

May 2023

Health-tech innovation

NSAI sponsored and exhibited at the Irish Medtech Association's *Meeting of Minds* digital health conference at the Convention Centre Dublin.

Out-of-hours inspections

Legal Metrology Inspectors performed out-of-hours inspections of taxi meters and licenced premises.

Enhancing metrology's societal benefits

Members of the National Metrology Laboratory (NML) attended the European Association of National Metrology Institutes' (EURAMET) General Assembly.

EURAMET enhances metrology's societal benefits by developing integrated, cost-effective and internationally competitive measurement infrastructure.

June 2023

Milestone: modern methods of construction

To encourage greater adoption of modern methods of construction (MMC) in Irish construction, NSAI launched its certification scheme in MMC, under the government's Housing for All plan.

Climate action: retrofitting recommendations

To support retrofitting under the government's Climate Action Plan, Ministers Simon Coveney and Neale Richmond launched the Retrofit Collection, a new collection of standard recommendations compiled by the NSAI. It aims to guide construction professionals' efforts to deliver high-quality, sustainable and efficient building upgrades.

New sustainability centre of excellence

NSAI established the Climate Action and Sustainability Centre of Excellence. The Centre developed NSAI's first Climate Action Roadmap by year-end.

MedTech conference in Toronto

At the MedTech Canada Conference, NSAI Inc, in collaboration with Health Canada, delivered a presentation on trends and topics in the Medical Device Single Audit Program (MDSAP).





July 2023

Milestone: AI roadmap

Ministers Neale Richmond and Dara Calleary launched Ireland's AI Standards & Assurance Roadmap alongside NSAI's CEO, Geraldine Larkin and Chair, James Kennedy.

This roadmap, published by the NSAI, is a key deliverable of Ireland's National AI Strategy to develop and use artificial intelligence for the benefit of Irish society and the economy.

Ensuring accuracy in trade

NSAI Legal Metrology Inspectors provided weighbridge and platform scales accuracy testing.

August 2023

Encouraging greater participation in standards

NSAI chose two young professionals to represent Ireland at the 2023 International Electrotechnical Commission's (IEC) Young Professionals Workshop in Egypt.

September 2023

Milestone: first National Timing Grid

The NSAI National Metrology Laboratory (NML) announced the rollout of Ireland's first-ever National Timing Grid. It offers near-real-time tracking of clock stability against Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Encouraging use of BIM in construction

NSAI sponsored and presented an award at the CiTA Building Information Modelling (BIM) event in Athlone, supporting the wider adoption of BIM in the Irish construction sector.

Meeting our stakeholders in health and construction

Representatives from various NSAI divisions met stakeholders and client companies at Homebond's Construction Watch Conference and the Smart Health Summit.

October 2023

Highlighting Ireland's SDG contributions

At its annual World Standards Day Forum and Awards Ceremony, NSAI recognised the collaborative contribution of experts in Ireland to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Minister Neale Richmond presented the Contribution to European Standardisation Special Award to the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, National Disability Authority. NSAI introduced the award to commemorate the 50th year of Ireland's EU membership.

Fostering information security awareness

Marking European Cybersecurity Month, NSAI launched its *Let's talk about information security* awareness campaign and webinar series, aimed at both the private and public sectors.

November 2023

Milestone: first UKCA mark

Minister Neale Richmond announced a Limerick manufacturer was the first Irish company to achieve the UKCA mark from NSAI Certification UK, a subsidiary of the NSAI.

Croom Concrete, which employs over 90 people locally, can now export its precast concrete products to England, Scotland, and Wales, bearing the UKCA mark.

Showcasing timing grid to international audience

National Metrology Laboratory representatives delivered a presentation on the building of Ireland's National Timing Grid to 350 delegates at the International Timing and Sync Forum in Antwerp.

Global recognition for certification

The International Certification Network (IQNET) is a global association of certification bodies, including NSAI. To celebrate IQNET Day, NSAI showcased how organisations it certifies can also receive an IQNET certificate for specified schemes.

Artificial intelligence webinar

To help Irish organisations prepare for the EU Artificial Intelligence Act, NSAI teamed up with Danish Standards and European Committees for Standardisation (CEN and CENELEC) to host a webinar, *Future EU legislation on AI and the important role standards play*. This was an initiative under the new European Commission High-Level Forum on Standardisation.

Meeting our stakeholders

NSAI Certification UK co-hosted a webinar for Irish businesses with the British Embassy and the UK Department for Business and Trade, *Understanding UKCA, UKNI and CE Marking*.

Representatives from the National Metrology Laboratory exhibited at the All-Ireland Lab & Cleanroom Expo in Dublin and delivered a presentation, *How to Measure with Confidence*.

December 2023

Preparedness and response webinar

NSAI co-hosted a webinar with the Practice Ecosystem for Standards (PEERS) Project, *Enhancing CBRN-E preparedness and response capabilities through standardisation*. PEERS is funded by Horizon Europe.

Promoting excellence in digital transformation

NSAI established the Digital Transformation Centre of Excellence.



Putting our work in context

Strategic & Policy Overview

NSAI's strategic goals showcase the breadth and depth of knowledge in the organisation, and include contributions to national policies. Throughout 2023, our work furthered these goals:

Irish SME growth

In one of our key strategic projects, Supporting National Economic Growth and SMEs, NSAI developed and rolled out self-assessment tools for SMEs relating to key management system standards, ISO 9001 (quality management systems) and ISO 27001 (information security management). It also ran an awareness campaign and webinar series for Irish SMEs around the benefits of an information security management system, *Let's talk about information security*.

Climate action and sustainability

NSAI fully supported European and national policy delivery under the Climate Action Plan by providing technical infrastructure services for:

- + emerging technologies
- + low-carbon and modern methods of construction
- + climate adaptation
- + carbon capture and use of alternative fuels.

To support the government's retrofitting targets under this plan, NSAI launched a new collection of standard recommendations, the Retrofit Collection. This new collection guides the efforts of professionals in the construction sector to deliver high-quality, sustainable and efficient building upgrades.

Digital transformation

Under Ireland's National AI Strategy, AI – Here for Good, NSAI published the first-ever AI Standards and Assurance Roadmap. It aims to develop and use AI standards for the benefit of Irish society and economy.

Medical technology (medtech) growth

With its designation under the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (EU) 2017/746, NSAI can now conduct conformity assessments and grant CE-marked certificates to medical device manufacturers, opening their access to the European market.

Meeting Housing for All commitments

Under the Government's Housing for All policy, NSAI offered:

- + certifications on the construction stage
- + sign-off on modern methods of construction (MMC) products
- + building system installation compliance under building regulations.

NSAI established its new MMC unit and certification scheme in June 2023.



NSAI

NSAI online

Ireland: NSAI.ie

UK: NSAI.uk

Global: NSAIinc.com

NSAI on social



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