

NEWSLETTER 01/2016

Dear VERA stakeholder,

We herewith want to update you with the latest news and developments from the VERA project. Since you have last heard from us, we worked intensively on several issues which we would like to share with you today.

New VERA website domain and email address

The domain name of the VERA website and the general email address was quite irritating, as VERA is a verification system and not a certification. Therefore, upon decision of the VERA Board, we have successfully switched the main domain name to www.vera-verification.eu and the email address to info@vera-verification.eu.

The former addresses will be forwarded automatically to the new sites.

New contact details:

International VERA Secretariat

Max-Eyth-Weg 1, 64823 Gross-Umstadt, Germany

phone: +49 (0) 69-24788-639 or -689 email: info@vera-verification.eu

website: www.vera-verification.eu

General VERA Guidelines

By now, the VERA verification process as a defined unique procedure has not been fixed in a general document. This has led to some uncertainties both in the different countries and also in the market.

In order to standardise the verification process and force the mutual recognition in future, we are currently working on setting up "General VERA Guidelines" which are contentwise strongly oriented at other global verification or certification processes, mainly the global ETV Programs.

We will inform you upon finalization and approval. Subsequently, you will also find them on the VERA website.

Current verification applications

The International VERA Secretariat is very happy to inform you today that we have currently seven verification applications on our desks addressing the test protocols for livestock housing and management systems as well as for air cleaning technologies.

Some of the tests have already been started during the Danish leadership and are currently under final evaluation. Besides, some completely new tests and applications were addressed to us.

We will keep you updated and as proceeded in the past publish them on the VERA website.

Expert meeting for Livestock Housing and Management Systems

During a 2-day meeting beginning of April at the Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, the expert group for Housing and Management Systems has continued its efforts

on the revision of the VERA test protocol. The main focus lies on the inclusion of a new measurement method for naturally ventilated buildings to be able to gain reliable data also in cattle houses. Applications for dairy cow houses are currently the top-request in VERA. The Dairy Campus is just about to finalize new experimental barns for emission measurements which was therefore an exciting meeting venue for the group.

Upcoming meetings

It is planned to present the work on the VERA test protocols – especially on livestock housings and management systems and on air cleaners at the international **CIGR AgEng conference** during an open session end of June 2016.

One further milestone we are currently working on is the revision of the existing test protocols.

The expert group for **air cleaning technologies** will concentrate its revision work on the results of the ICT agri project and measurements of bioaerosols. After a meeting end of 2015, the group will meet in summer 2016 again.

Upon the finalization and publication of the EU wide study on **land applied manure** which is expected in quarter 4 / 2016, we will call the relevant expert group for revision work on this test protocol.

A further target for this year is the approval of the existing test protocols for **manure covers** and **slurry separation**. They have only been approved by Denmark and the Netherlands yet.

The main focus for the **International VERA Board** will still be the adoption and approval of the "General VERA Guidelines". For this purpose, two IVB meetings are planned to take place, one in June and the other in autumn.

Trade fairs

In 2016, you can visit us at various events and exhibitions.

The International VERA Secretariat will be present at the **EuroTier**, the world's leading trade fair for animal production, in Hanover from 15 to 18 November.

<http://www.eurotier.com/home-en.html>

Already in summer, we would be very happy to welcome you at the **DLG-Feldtage** which will take place from 14 – 16 June at Gut Mariaburghausen in Hassfurt, Germany. We will have an exhibition stand at the "Special: manure" and our German VERA expert and IVC member for land applied manure application, Dr. Pacholski, will present VERA in the expert forum on Thursday, 16 June at 4.30 pm. <http://www.dlg-feldtage.de/en/programme/>

We are looking forward to meeting you there!

In the meantime, we are happy to answer any questions regarding VERA you might have.

Kind regards

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About VERA

The VERA process is currently a multinational collaboration between Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany for testing and verifying environmental technologies within the agricultural sector. It includes test protocols for the following technologies:

- ✓ air cleaning technologies
- ✓ livestock housing and management systems
- ✓ slurry separation technologies
- ✓ technologies for reduction of gaseous emissions from land applied manure
- ✓ technologies for reduction of gaseous emissions from stored manure.

Beside farmers and authorities also manufacturers of such technologies benefit of this collaboration with regards to approval processes. Manufacturers get the possibility to have their technologies tested by a neutral and recognised test. The VERA test protocols were developed by well-known experts of the participating countries. They provide comparable and substantiated results with a high level of acceptance. A VERA verification statement confirms that the technology was tested by a competent test laboratory according to the specifications of the relevant VERA protocol. The results allow to derive efficiency levels which can be considered with regards to emission evaluations, e. g. in approval processes. The authorities receive secured data which at the same time supports the farmer when planning new investments. The manufacturer bears all costs for the test; costs for the evaluation and issuing of the verification statement will be covered by the responsible national ministries via the VERA secretariat.