

NEWSLETTER 01/2018

Dear VERA stakeholder,

The first quarter of 2018 has passed, and only six months are left before the International VERA Secretariat will be transferred to the Netherlands. Time for the latest news about VERA:

Expanding the VERA Cooperation

Welcome Switzerland and Flanders!

We are delighted that both Switzerland and Flanders have accepted our invitation and are interested in future collaboration with our VERA initiative, as stated in official letters by the Swiss Federal Office for Environment and the Belgian ILVO.

Both countries have already provided very valuable knowledge in the course of revising the VERA Test protocols, especially in the VERA expert group 'Housing and Management Systems'. In addition, Swiss manufacturers and other organisations have shown interest in a VERA test and a VERA verification.

We also look forward to intensifying our collaboration with Switzerland and Flanders in the VERA Board in the future!

VERA Board meeting open for interested countries: 8 May 2018

The next VERA Board meeting, on 8 May 2018 in Berlin, will be open for new countries to get to know VERA and the work of its steering committee, the VERA Board.

In case you are, or have contacts with, representatives of an agricultural or environmental ministry of a European country, please make them aware of this excellent option. The official invitation letter is available on our VERA website: <http://www.vera-verification.eu/en/news/2018/invitation-for-new-vera-countries/>

Promising trends at the 4th EU ETV Stakeholder Forum on 15 February 2018 in Brussels

Similar to the VERA approach, the European Union Environmental Technology Verification (EU ETV) Pilot Programme is a voluntary verification scheme launched by the European Commission to generate independent and credible information by means of reliable test results on new environmental technologies, which is being currently evaluated and having its future strategy planned. In terms of expanding VERA, a potential future collaboration with EU-ETV may generate more awareness and boost mutual recognition of VERA verifications in Europe.

Around 25 participants attended the 4th Stakeholder Forum on 15 February 2018 in Brussels to exchange views on the results of the evaluation of the EU ETV pilot programme and the feasibility of potential options for the future.

One of the four potential options aims for closer links between the BREF and ETV by confirming the performance of technologies in support of performance-based legislation. The basic principles of VERA seem to fit best with this particular option. However, discussions on the evaluation study are still on-going, and approval of the official commission document is estimated for the end of 2018. Even though everything is still open at this moment, broadening the scope of ETV seems very likely, which would at least provide an option for potential future collaboration.

If you want to learn more, the presentations of the day are published here:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv/events/4th-etv-stakeholder-forum-evaluation-and-future-etv-europe_en

Expert Activities

The revision work on all VERA test protocols is in full swing, with the aim of updating these documents to take the latest research into account. The publication of these revisions is expected for autumn of this year.

In addition, several consultations on new VERA verifications have been conducted.

Workshop of task force 'bioaerosols' planned for 17 May 2018 in Berlin

We are currently organising a meeting with specialists on 'bioaerosols', in collaboration with the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA) in Berlin.

As the second of these VERA workshops, it will focus on the latest results in research, including a holistic literature study prepared by Marcus Clauss and the latest studies on endotoxins. The political importance of evaluating bioaerosols remains at a high level. Based on new results and insights, we would like to use the time to discuss effective measurement methods and appropriate ways to evaluate the data so as to integrate bioaerosol measurements into the VERA test protocols for air cleaners.

Website

Lists of test institutes and authorised VERA Verification bodies are available

There have frequently been questions about 'Who can perform VERA tests?' and 'Who is authorised to issue a VERA verification?' In order to provide a suitable overview, we have uploaded two lists with the relevant contact details for:

- Authorised VERA Verification bodies
- Test institutes that have demonstrated their competence to perform VERA.

As usual, the latest news will be published in the news sections of our website first, which is just another reason to check out the news on our website regularly!

Kind regards

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About VERA

VERA is a multinational collaboration between Denmark, the Netherlands, and Germany in relation to testing and verifying environmental technologies in the agricultural sector. It includes test protocols for the following technologies:

- ✓ air cleaning
- ✓ livestock housing and management
- ✓ slurry separation
- ✓ land applied manure
- ✓ mitigation systems for stored manure.

As well as farmers and authorities, manufacturers of such technologies also benefit from this collaboration with regard to approval processes. Manufacturers can get their technologies tested by a neutral and recognised test. The VERA test protocols were developed by well-known experts in the participating countries and other collaborators. 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 in accordance with the requirements of the relevant VERA protocol. The results allow for the determining of efficiency levels with regard to emission evaluations, e. g. in approval processes. The authorities receive secure data that, 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.