

NEWSLETTER 02/2017

Dear VERA stakeholder,

Another three months were filled with intensive work for the International VERA Secretariat, the International VERA Board and the expert groups. Read more about the latest news and developments:

Verifications

Adapted and still VERA verified SyreN system by BioCover

BioCover's SyreN system for manure acidification during land application was the first system ever to receive a VERA Verification Statement in October 2012. In the process of time the system was further developed and some adaptations of the construction were made. The new construction is considered as "an improvement of the technology from a safety point of view and the adaptations will not have any adverse influence on the environmental performance of the system" by the international VERA experts for 'land application'. We can therefore confirm that the adapted version of the SyreN system can still be considered as "VERA verified" as laid down in the VERA Verification Statement No. 1 issued on 2 October 2012 (http://www.vera-verification.eu/fileadmin/download/VERA_Statements/VERA-Statement001_SyreN.pdf).

International VERA Board

Open for new member countries

After the publication of the "General VERA Guidelines", we informed you in our last newsletter, the door is now open for new European member countries. During last week's VERA Board meeting, a strategy for the further extension of the VERA cooperation was developed. Having already received participation requests from various countries, the International VERA Secretariat will soon send official invitation letters with all necessary documents to the relevant ministries of agriculture and/or environment. In addition, VERA will present itself within the framework of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen workshop in Aarhus, Denmark on 30 June 2017 to internationally spread information on the cooperation.

Interested in becoming a new member? - Contact us at info@vera-verification.eu!

General VERA Guidelines now also available in German

German speaking stakeholders can also read the "General VERA Guidelines" in their own language. As this is the starting point for inviting more member countries and broaden the cooperation, this is another element easing to spread the VERA idea further.

The 54 pages long document can be found in the German section of our website: <http://www.vera-verification.eu/de/hersteller/allgemeine-vera-richtlinien/>

Expert Activities

The revision work on all VERA test protocols is still in full swing in order to update these document to the latest state-of-the-art.

Land application: The suggested amendments and supplements for the revision of the test protocol 'land applied manure' is currently integrated in the draft. The expert group will possibly come together for the next meeting on 03 September 2017 within the framework of the RAMIRAN Conference in Wexford, Ireland to discuss the last changes.

Air cleaners: In order to optimize the revision of the VERA test protocol on air cleaners both from a general as well as from a technical point of view, a “**VERA lab meeting**” was held on 19 April 2017 in Hanover together with the VERA experts and test laboratories which are experienced in emission measurements from the VERA member countries Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. As the test institutes are the main users of the test protocols, they can give valuable feedback if the protocol is clear in its requirements. On the other hand, the intensive experiences of the daily work of the test institutes can deliver new ideas and additional aspects. In addition, the understanding for the verification scheme itself could be clarified.

The following day, the VERA experts conferred about the ideas and suggestions of the meeting with the test laboratories to decide which aspects should be included into the new draft. After adding the last comments and the final approval by the international experts, the VERA test protocol will soon be ready for publication.

Taskforce bioaerosols: The newly founded taskforce bioaerosols met on 30 March 2017 in Hanover to discuss the implementation of this topic into the VERA test protocol for air cleaning technologies. International experts from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark discussed possible health effects or risks as well as the feasibility of existing measurement methods for VERA. At this moment, the current knowledge on bioaerosols, their impact on people and thus, the most significant test parameter are not yet satisfactorily investigated. After the finalisation of on-going studies and the intensive review of existing research, it is planned to organize a workshop with more international experts for the beginning of 2018 to collect all available knowledge. The outcome should then allow the integration of this important test parameter into the VERA test protocol for air cleaners by end-2018.

Housing systems: The expert group for housing systems met on 04 and 05 April 2017 at the premises of the International VERA Secretariat in Gross-Umstadt to adapt last changes to the fully revised VERA test protocol, which includes now detailed advice and requirements for measurements in naturally ventilated buildings. The final approval meeting is scheduled for 27 and 28 June 2017 in Copenhagen. The planning on further steps for an interlaboratory test will be another agenda item.

The revised test protocol was introduced to the international scientific audience of the **EmiLi conference** in May in St. Malo, France. In September it will again be presented at the **BTU conference** in Hohenheim, Germany.

Upcoming trade fairs, meetings and conferences

2017 holds ready a number of trade fairs, meetings, conferences and events where the International VERA Secretariat will be present. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

“Öko-Feldtage” (Organic Field Days)

The 1st organic field days are scheduled for **21 – 22 June** at the Hessische Staatsdomäne Frankenhausen, Hesse, Germany, offering a platform for the exchange of ideas between conventional and organic farmers. Although VERA will not be present with an own stand, information leaflets will be distributed in the exhibition tent “Praxis trifft Forschung” (“practice meets research”). <http://www.oeko-feldtage.de/english/>

RAMIRAN Conference

From **04 – 06 September** the 17th international RAMIRAN conference will be held at Wexford, Ireland, focussing on the sustainable utilisation of manures and residue resources in agriculture. VERA was accepted to present our revised VERA test protocol ‘land applied manure’ in an oral presentation during the conference. <https://www.ramiran2017.com/>

BTU Conference

From **18 – 20 September** the annual BTU conference will be held at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. VERA was accepted to present itself and the revised VERA test protocol ‘housing systems’ in a poster and a brief oral presentation during the conference. <http://www.btu-tagung.de/en/>

VERA Stakeholder meeting “Air cleaners”

In **autumn 2017** the International VERA Secretariat will host a stakeholder meeting for air cleaning technologies. Any stakeholder interested in the revised VERA test protocol will be invited. We will keep you updated as soon as we have fixed a date and a venue.

AGRITECHNICA

From **12 – 18 November** VERA will be an official exhibitor at AGRITECHNICA, the world’s leading trade fair for agricultural machinery and equipment at the trade fair grounds of Hanover, Germany. You will find us again at the stand of the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL). <https://www.agritechnica.com/en/>

Newsletter

Newsletter also available in German

Our regular newsletters are also available in German. If you prefer to receive it rather in German than in English, please send us a short email message to info@vera-verification.eu.

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

Kind regards

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About VERA

VERA is 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 for:

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