

NEWSLETTER 07/2019

Dear VERA stakeholder,

It has been a while since the last VERA newsletter therefore it is with great pleasure that we invite you to read the new online VERA newsletter. In this edition we; introduce you to NEN as the new International VERA Secretariat, provide you with an update on key protocol developments, the verification bodies, and EU ETV. Additionally, we are happy to announce the official launch of the new VERA website.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the VERA newsletter.

Sincerely,

International VERA Secretariat (IVS)

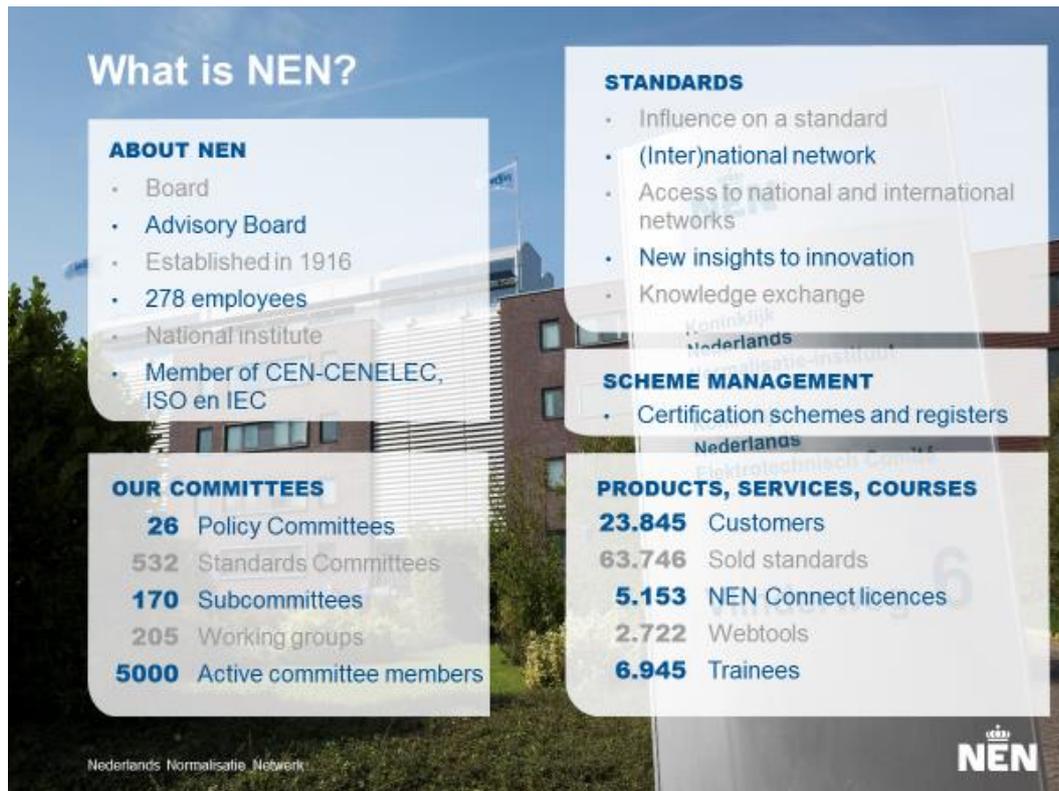
VERA'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT IS BASED AT NEN IN DELFT ZUID, HOLLAND

Since October 1st 2018 NEN (Royal Netherlands Standardization Institute) has the honour of taking over the role and responsibilities of IVS from DLG. We have been working hard together with DLG on a smooth transition of the secretariat from them to us. As such we would like to take this opportunity to thank Iris Beckert (DLG) for her guidance given during our first months. Without a doubt we can conclude that the previous secretariat did an amazing job building a strong VERA brand with good quality assurances.

Who are we?

- NEN connects national and international (ISO and CEN) stakeholders to help them reach broadly supported agreements, supervise their implementation and develop certification schemes;
- NEN works independent with consensus as basis for their agreements.

In a nutshell we represent:



The VERA Secretariat will be managed by 5 persons from within the Environment & Society team.

You can contact us for any questions or information regarding VERA at info@vera-verification.eu

PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENTS

Protocol Livestock housing and management systems: number of test locations to be able to express an emission factor

Applicants requested a clarification of the VERA protocol 'Livestock housing and management systems' VERA protocol because the option to choose between the Case-Control and Multi-farm approach for doing measurements required for a VERA verification causes some confusion. The Case-Control approach requires measurements performed at two test locations. The outcome of testing at two test locations is a generated reduction rate compared to the reference and not an emission reduction factor. If an emission reduction factor is wanted, it is required to perform measurement at minimum four test locations. This is not quite clear in the current protocol, as a solution to this the International Expert Group is currently developing a guidance document. Please consult the verification body in order to develop a test plan in line with your goal.

VERA VERIFICATION PROCESS

What are the first steps in the VERA verification process for the applicant?

We believe it is important to show the key processes and steps in the VERA verification process to interested applicants. In order to do so we are working on an online process diagram. We hope this will provide a better understanding of the work involved and the time required to obtain a VERA verification statement.

DLG AND ETA VERIFICATION BODIES FOR THE NETHERLANDS & FLANDERS

According to the General VERA Guidelines, one of the tasks outlined for IVS is to also operate as a verification body. However NEN acting as the IVS has decided not to take this role upon itself after approval by the VERA Board.

The main arguments are described here;

- At NEN the development of standards and certification schemes are kept separate from actual certification.
- Qualified and independent certification bodies that are licensed use the certification schemes developed by NEN.
- The above 2 arguments allow NEN to operate independently and guarantee its neutral position while also avoiding any conflict of interest with stakeholders.

We see many similarities with the VERA system and as such decided it would be best to outsource the verification of applications to existing verification bodies. IVS and the VERA Board are currently in discussion with ETA and DLG to be designated as verification bodies for IVS, the Netherlands and Flanders.

UPDATE EU ETV

In order to collaborate with the EU Environmental Technology Verification (EU ETV), we have sent the VERA protocols to our contact person within EU ETV so that they can discuss alignment with their system. In June IVS has attended the EU ETV meeting in which the IVS presented VERA and further alignment was discussed. Since a new European Commission will be installed later this year, we expect that the collaboration with EU-ETV will be more thoroughly discussed at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020. For more information please visit: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv/>

[THE NEW VERA WEBSITE IS NOW ONLINE!](#)