

NEWSLETTER 01/2017

Dear VERA stakeholder,

The International VERA Secretariat is proud to announce today that a major milestone in the VERA history has been reached! Read more about the latest news and developments:

General VERA Guidelines

Major milestone for VERA: “General VERA Guidelines” published

A seven-mile step in the VERA history has been completed: recently, the “General VERA Guidelines” (GVG) have been published after the official approval by all VERA member countries. This achievement is another highlight for the VERA initiative being the first official document regulating the uniform procedures for a VERA verification for all VERA member countries.

The 49 pages long document includes a precise definition of the VERA bodies and partners involved, a comprehensive description of all processes for the verification and the development of test protocols as well as requirements how the VERA logo and a VERA Verification Statement may be used and how this is to be supervised. In addition, the quality management system in the individual process phases is described in an own chapter.

Simultaneously to these standardization efforts, also the structure of all VERA test protocols will be adjusted to satisfy the requirements of official standards in the future aiming for more clarity and logic.

Learn more about the “General VERA Guidelines” on the VERA website: <http://www.vera-verification.eu/technology-manufacturers/general-vera-guidelines/>.

Cooperation can now be extended to other countries

Following this considerable step, the VERA cooperation is now officially open for new member countries within Europe. The “General VERA Guidelines” open the door for a further extension representing the basic framework. The International VERA Secretariat together with its steering committee, the International VERA Board, will now actively start to contact other European countries and invite them to join the cooperation. Vice versa, ministries of agriculture or environment of interested countries are requested to contact the International VERA Secretariat proactively and apply for a participation in our initiative.

Expert Activities

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

Land application: The expert group for land application met on 07 and 08 February in Wageningen, the Netherlands, to initiate the revision of the relevant VERA test protocol taking into account latest research results on new measurement methods. It was decided to skip odour measurements from the VERA test protocols as long as there is no meaningful method for low odour levels available. Similar to the ongoing revisions of the other VERA test protocols, the new document will

also contain a description of “standard conditions” for a test which are a summary of common practices and requirements in the participating countries.

Another important decision is the focus on the review of the existing test protocol with regards to land applied manure first and maybe develop a separate VERA test protocol for trade fertilizers later. The idea to include emissions from trade fertilizers to the scope of the test protocol seems not perfect as measurement methods are not completely identical and need to be adapted accordingly.

For Germany Sebastian Wulf from KTBL Darmstadt is a new member in the expert group as Andreas Pacholski, the former German member, had to leave the group due to other obligations. We could also welcome Peter Demeyer from ILVO Flanders, Belgium, as guest in this group.

Taskforce bioaerosols: The newly founded taskforce bioaerosols will meet on 30 March 2017 in Hanover to further discuss the impacts of bioaerosols and the implementation of this topic into the VERA test protocol for air cleaning technologies.

Air cleaners: The next meeting of the expert group for air cleaners is scheduled for 20 April 2017 also in Hanover, subsequent to a VERA meeting with test laboratories to discuss the latest draft of the revised test protocol.

Housing systems: The expert group for housing systems will come together on 04 and 05 April 2017 at the premises of the International VERA Secretariat in Gross-Umstadt to approve the revised VERA test protocol and plan further steps for the interlaboratory test. The new protocol version will then be officially presented at the BTU conference in September in Hohenheim and if accepted, as well at the EmiLi conference in May in France.

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. Here are the upcoming ones which are already confirmed. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

VERA meeting “Testing air cleaners” for test laboratories

On 19 April 2017 the International VERA Secretariat will host a meeting for test laboratories in Hanover to discuss the latest draft of the revised VERA test protocol for air cleaning technologies.

EmiLi Conference

From 21 – 24 May VERA experts will meet during the EmiLi Conference in Rennes, France. In case of acceptance by the conference committee, we will take the chance to present the VERA idea in general and the newly revised VERA test protocol for housing systems.

https://colloque.inra.fr/emili2017_eng/

“Öko-Feldtage” (Organic Field Days)

The 1. Öko-Feldtage 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/>

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 test protocol for housing systems in a poster and a brief oral presentation during the conference. <http://www.btu-tagung.de/en/>

AGRITECHNICA

Finally, 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

International VERA Secretariat, Max-Eyth-Weg 1, 64823 Gross-Umstadt, Germany
P: +49 69 24788 -639 or -689 Email: info@vera-verification.eu www.vera-verification.eu

If you don't like to receive this newsletter any more, please answer to this email with subject "Cancellation newsletter" and we will delete you from our distribution list.

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 application
- ✓ 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 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.