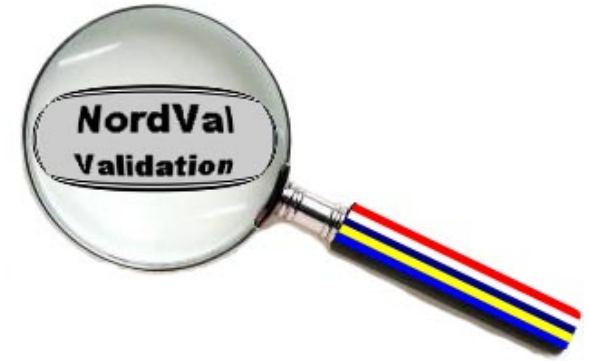


# The History of NordVal



Presentation at the NordVal 10th Anniversary  
Symposium 20th August 2010

by

Sven Qvist

Chair of NordVal



# The releasing event for official method validation in Denmark

- In 1993 a major Salmonella outbreak with more than 500 diseased occurred in Denmark.
- Cause: Salmonella infantis from pork products from a private company during a countrywide strike on all major slaughterhouses.
- Cooling capacity insufficient – Salmonella growth.



# Salmonella monitoring and surveillance program in DK

- Primary production
- Slaughterhouses
- Retail level
- Imported foods



# Analytical requirements

- Accuracy
- Sensitivity
- Specificity
- Availability
- Reliability
- Rapidity
- Easy handling
- Capacity
- Automation
- Cost effective



# Danish Salmonella Method Validations and Approvals

Salmonella EiaFoss was approved by the Danish Veterinary Administration for Salmonella control in Denmark in 1994

DanVal was established at the Danish Veterinary Administration in 1995 with Sven Qvist as initiator and chairman



## From DanVal to NordVal

DanVal activities were reported at NMKL annual meetings in 1996, 1997 and 1998. Proposals to include validations of alternative microbiological methods in the NMKL program were not adopted.

In 1999 the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Food Issues under the Nordic Council of Ministers established NordVal after recommendation by NMKL. Official start of the NordVal program 1st Jan. 2000.



## Seeking EU approval of alternative methods for Finland and Sweden

Special Salmonella guarantees based on classical methods restricted trade in fresh chilled meat.

Therefore Danish authorities, meat exporters and kit manufacturers requested EU to accept the use of alternative methods, which could release meat for export within 24 hours. In this process NordVal played an active role as scientific adviser.



## Response of EU Commission

The EU requested the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health to elaborate an opinion on criteria for evaluation of methods for Salmonella control.

This opinion was published in 2002 and formed the basis for the EU decision in 2003 accepting the use of alternative methods for Salmonella control of meat intended for Finland and Sweden



# Letter of Recognition to the Danish Veterinary and Food Adm.

" It is the conviction of the Danish Bacon & Meat Council that the cooperation between DBMC , FOSS A/S, DVFA and NordVal succeeded in a proposal to EU, which formed basis for the final EU decision in 2003 for Finland and Sweden  
DBMC expresses its full support for NordVal as a common Nordic system for method validation"

Managing Director Anne Birgitte Lundholt



# SCVMPH Conclusions

- Procedures for validation as described by AFNOR, AOAC, CEN, ISO and NordVal are similar in their general outline, but differ in small details
- The different standardisation bodies should continue their negotiations to reach further agreement on procedures for validation
- Simpler or more transparent procedures for validation should be developed

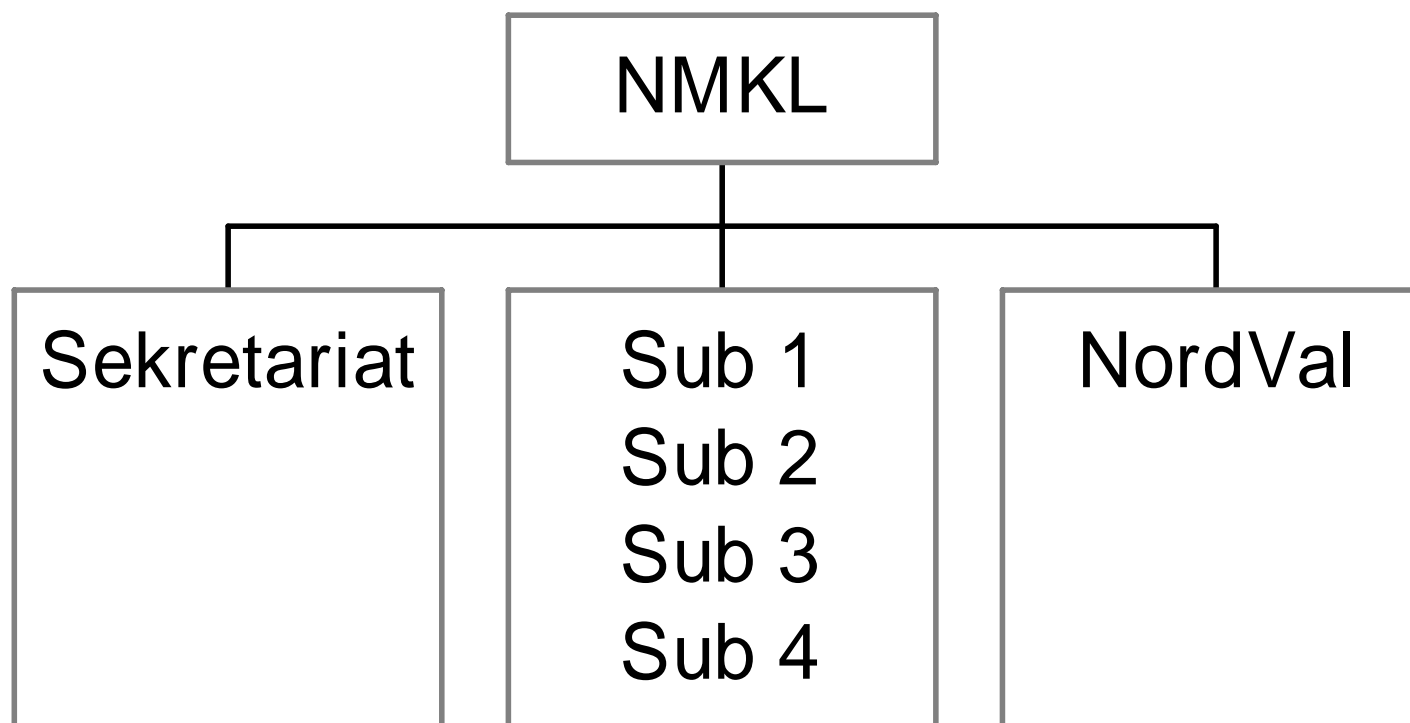


# Commission reg. No 2073/2005 on Microbiological Criteria for foodstuffs

The use of alternative microbiological methods is acceptable when validated against a reference method in Annex I, and if a proprietary method, certified by a third party in accordance with the protocol set out in EN/ISO 16140 or other internationally accepted similar protocols, is used.



# NordVal taken over by NMKL in 2007 with secretariat in Oslo





# NordVal Validation Profile

Recognized by the Nordic Food Authorities as an organisation, where the appointed members cannot have any special interests in the production and distribution of test kits, special reagents or instruments, which can give doubts about their independency.



# NordVal Steering Group 2010

- Denmark: Sven Qvist, Arne Højgård (vice chair)
- Finland: Maria Sjöman, Mika Tuomola
- Iceland: Franklin Georgsson, Heida Palmadóttir
- Norway: Kjell Hauge, Hilde Skår Norli (secretary)
- Sweden: Åsa Rosengren, Ylva Sjögren



# Status 2010: 30 NordVal validated and certified methods in function

- 16 culture based methods
- 10 PCR based methods
- 4 ELISA based methods

(patented and open methods)



## International presentations and activities from NordVal

- Hot topics in microbiology, Campden
- AOAC RI validation session, Orlando
- FoodMicro 2008 session, Aberdeen
- MicroVal symposium, Amsterdam
- Cooperation agreement with MicroVal
- NMKL Newsletter to > 40 countries  
(information: [www.nmkl.org](http://www.nmkl.org))