Cooperation Agreement between MicroVal and NordVal International

Whereas MicroVal, the MicroVal Certification Scheme is a third party certification scheme for the validation of alternative methods for microbiological analysis of foods, animal feeding stuffs, beverages (excluding water analysis) and food environmental samples. The secretariat of MicroVal is located at NEN in Delft in the Netherlands.

Whereas NordVal International, is a third party certification scheme for the validation of alternative methods for the analysis of foods, water, feeds, animal faeces and food environmental matrices. NordVal International is a committee under NMIKL (Nordic Committee on Food Analysis) and the secretariat is located at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute in Oslo, Norway.

Whereas both organizations receive applications from manufacturers who wish to have approvals/certificates at the same time for MicroVal as well as for NordVal International (basis for both systems EN ISO 16140). Both organizations recognize the need for a pragmatic approach to accommodate the wishes of the manufacturers to have a combined certificate at the same time. Cooperation is beneficial for both organizations as well as for the users of alternative test methods, food control authorities, and the test kit manufacturers.

Therefore, the both organizations agree to the following:

- to intensify the cooperation by combining the validation studies. The validation process is developed in such a way that it fulfils the requirements of both systems. We both maintain our own procedures, rules, fees etc. For the manufacturer this means that there is one validation that meets both requirements. One validation meeting both requirements is advantageous for the manufacturer, since it is less expensive and more efficient than two separate validations.

- to align our application forms in such a way that the manufacturer can choose between a combined validation or for either of the two systems

Notice of intent to cancel this Agreement, may be provided at any time, by registered letter, by either party by giving notice of this not less than three months prior to the cancellation. MicroVal and NordVal International shall attempt to resolve issues however, if the outstanding issues cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, cancellation shall take place on the expiry date given in a cancellation letter.

For MicroVal
Imola Ferro, Manager MicroVal secretariat

For NordVal International
Sven Qvist, Chair of NMIKL/NordVal International