



Poligny, 20th of September 2006

Subject : ICAR milk analyser approval for milk recording

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

For about forty years rapid instrumental analytical methods have been developed and used in milk analysis so as to respond to the increasing demand of the dairy sector for the purpose of mainly milk payment and milk recording. Today's high speed instruments can provide up to 500 results per hour for fat, protein, lactose, somatic cell count and other parameters.

Prior to utilisation for official purposes, such as milk recording, rapid methods have to be evaluated with regard to performance characteristics and practicability for laboratories. This is made through a validation process conducted by competent bodies. It is of course in the interest of all involved parties that multiplication of world wide efforts in this type of validation work is kept as limited as possible. Furthermore, depending on the set-up and the execution of the evaluation, the performance picture obtained can show great variations and lead to unequivocal conclusions. This underlines the importance to apply a harmonised protocol that is fit for this purpose.

The Working Group on Milk Testing Laboratories of International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) has developed such an international harmonised protocol that can serve the interest of milk recording world wide. The Working Group has proposed to the ICAR Board to grant world wide valid approvals for those instruments/methods that would fulfil the requirements stated in the harmonised protocol. The ICAR Board has approved this proposal.

We hereby inform you that the approval system of ICAR for milk analysers starts working in 2006. From July 2006, requests for getting the ICAR approval can therefore be brought to ICAR Secretariat.

The so-called ICAR approval granting is based on prior national approvals delivered by competent bodies in three different ICAR countries obtained on the bases defined in the harmonised protocol. Hence, when the former prerequisite is met, a request can be brought to ICAR either by any national organisation or manufacturers. A world wide valid ICAR approval will limit the amount of (repeatedly executed) validation work in individual countries considerably.

It is noted that the approval system is pertaining to new analysers launched as from July 2006. The ICAR approval system does not oblige to reconsider the validity of instruments already in use before 2006 and national approvals delivered on the basis of different protocols keep still being valid for the purpose of milk recording and use of analytical data by ICAR but without the possibility to benefit of ICAR approval.

For the practical application, the necessary documents are indicated in the procedure of approval and the evaluation protocol appended. You may contact either myself or ICAR Secretariat for any further information/explanation where needed.

Yours faithfully

Olivier Leray
Chair man of MTL WG of ICAR

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Files appended : MA approval - Procedure 2006.doc
Evalmat02-2.doc