



**KRAJOWE CENTRUM HODOWLI ZWIERZĄT
W WARSZAWIE
NATIONAL ANIMAL BREEDING CENTRE**

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D – 08-1/2016

Warsaw, 20/06/2016

Mr. Hans Wilmink
President of ICAR
Via Savoia 78, sc. A int. 3
00198 Rome
Italy

Re.: ICAR Certificate of Quality for LOM KCHZ LR

Dear Mr. President,

I am concerned with the situation related to the extension of the ICAR Certificate of Quality for our Reference Milk Laboratory.

Problems have started already on the beginning of the process when verification form was imposed as well as very short deadline for information delivery. And now, on June 15th, we have received the correspondence from the ICAR Secretariat with backdated documents which reduce on half a year our Certificate validity due to the ICAR Secretariat mistake. This action has nothing to do with a good quality and a good practice.

The Central Animal Breeding Station, representing Poland has been accepted as a member of ICAR more than 20 years ago. The National Animal Breeding Centre, which is its successor, is continuing the membership. Admittedly the scope of our activities has been changed but we made and still make efforts to participate actively in ICAR activities.

In the year 2005 the National Animal Breeding Centre has received the ICAR Special Stamp. In the meantime the scope of our activity has changed as well as rules for quality certification by ICAR – the Special Stamp has been replaced by the Certificate of Quality. Since the last ICAR Workshop in Krakow, rules for the granting of CoQ have been modified. In the end of the modification process the new rules would probably be better and friendlier for ICAR

members. However, the confusion during the transition period which we now have to deal with, shouldn't happen.

I understand the need for changes. Our colleagues, Dorota Krencik and Agnieszka Szewczyk, have actively participated in this process, working on a new set of questions for certification of milk laboratories purposes. Dorota Krencik as a member of the CoQ Auditors Team additionally has participated in the Auditors Team discussion about transition. We sent together our opinion about the process twice: in December and January. However I get the impression that our remarks haven't been taken into account in the ongoing discussions and that the process of change could be better prepared.

The most of information about changes in the process of certification we have received indirectly, by the Auditors Team. The National Animal Breeding Centre as the ICAR Member has received only this part of information which was connected directly with our Consultative Review. On the ICAR website still haven't been presented information about the project of changes in the certification process. If an ICAR Member has no representatives in the CoQ Auditors Team, it practically knows nothing about the project. And even if it has own representatives it cannot be sure that its knowledge is updated because, as Elena Couto has written in her e-mail, some internal re-arrangements has been done. Very short and general information in the ICAR Newsletter (December 2015) is not enough for interested companies. There is also no information on the cost of the current proposal for a full Audit nor for a Consultative Review – this kind of information is essential for a budget planning and even if General Assemble would change proposals of the Board in any way, it would be a good starting point for a budget planning.

Dorota Krencik has found difference between the expire date on the CoQ which we received in December 2015 and in data in the ICAR file from the e-mail sent in the end of May by Charl Hunlum to the Auditors Team, which work he should coordinate and supervised. She checked the data on the ICAR website at the turn of the year, after receiving the new CoQ, but at that time the expiry date was not presented and some changes on the site have been implemented later. We haven't checked it later because we did not expected that something like this could happen.

Carrying out changes in the process of granting the Certificate of Quality ICAR in such an incompetent manner, especially issue the Certificate of Quality with the shorter expire date

using backdate in documents, not only is a threat to the image of our company on both national and international market, but also indirectly affect negatively on the image of the ICAR. The LOM KCHZ LR prepares and distributes reference materials to all milk purchases in Poland. It also organise national and international ring tests. And in all these activities we use the ICAR Certificate of Quality issued and sent us in December 2015 and valid until June 2018.

In the end I would like to conclude:

- The works on the amendments we consider as very useful and necessary, we would like to participate in them but the greater transparency of this process is needed.
- It is unacceptable to pre-date documents submitted to us on June 15th by the ICAR Secretariat. As follows from the correspondence, it is a result of ICAR Secretariat consultation with Charl Hunlum who coordinates a work of Auditors Team.
- I would like to ask you to left the CoQ with June 2018 as an expiry date. This Certificate, of which we are proud, is presented in our main office, in the laboratory, on our web site and first of all on all documents issued by the laboratory. It was also presented to the Polish Centre of Accreditation (PCA) during the accreditation process for the ISO 17025.
- I agree for the visited audit in the year 2017 but provided that we would receive information about full costs of audit before the end of July 2016 – it is connected with necessity of planning the budget for the next year.
- I expect that we will send all documents related to the audit to the ICAR Secretariat until the mid-September 2017 at the latest.
- I hope that announced changes in the Audit Questionnaires, in the development of which we had also participated in relation to the CoQ for milk testing laboratory, would be accepted during the 40th Biennale ICAR Session in Perto Varas, would be sent to the ICAR Members and would be published on the ICAR website until the end of this year. This will allow for efficient preparation of documentation for the planned in 2017 audits.

Dear Mr Wilmink,

You are one of the people who, on the beginning of our membership in the ICAR, used to help us to understand the idea of cooperation in the frame of ICAR and needs for harmonisation of good quality milk recording results as well as to implement the ICAR Guidelines. It had helped us to receive the ICAR Special Stamp a few years later. I am sorry about above situation even more because of our very good cooperation in the past.

ICAR is the organisation which we respect and consider as very important for development of animal recording and breeding. I hope that my proposal is acceptable for you and that our cooperation will go smoothly in a future as it was in the past.

Yours sincerely

Leszek Sobolewski
Director of NABC

