



Mutual recognition between OQUALIM-STNO and VLOG Published on 3rd June 2019

Under the two agreements of October 2017 and May 2019, there is a mutual recognition of certifications according to the French OQUALIM-STNO Feed Standard and the VLOG "Ohne Gentechnik" Production and Certification Standard at the feed stage.

Both certification standards meet the highest quality criteria and focus on controlling feed without genetically modified plants. The legal reason for this is the absence of a GMO labelling obligation under Regulations (EC) Nos. 1829/2003 and 1830/2003. To ensure this claim, the two standards prescribe a risk assessment system and an extensive analysis of feed production, among other things. Implementation of the requirements is monitored on feed plants by independent certification bodies.

The German Association Food without Genetic Engineering (VLOG) has recognised certifications under the OQUALIM-STNO Standard as equivalent to VLOG certifications since October 2017. Among other things, this recognition enables the grading of French VLOG-certified farmers into a lower risk category when they purchase feed certified under the OQUALIM-STNO Standard. This can reduce sampling and testing expenses at the agricultural stage without compromising the safety of the feed.

Starting in June 2019, OQUALIM will recognise certification under the VLOG Standard in combination with a general feed quality standard already recognised by OQUALIM, such as QS, GMP+B1 or FCA (OVOCOM), as equivalent to certification under OQUALIM-STNO. Thus, for example, a VLOG-certified feed business in Germany can claim this STNO equivalence from French farmers in France who value certification under OQUALIM-STNO criteria. This will facilitate cross-border trade as well as the general availability of feed for Non-GMO production.

The two agreements will reduce unnecessary double certification and thereby lower costs at the feed production and agricultural stages. In addition, this will guarantee compliance with the strictest criteria of safety and quality for all involved parties along the value chain and enable consumers to make an informed decision against GMOs.

OQUALIM

OQUALIM is an association whose aim is to provide solutions to help meeting the **health security and animal feed quality challenges**. The association coordinates the collective approach by the French animal nutrition sector in terms of quality and health security of animal feed. It has two main objectives: health security and compliance with both public and private specifications. To achieve these objectives, it has constructed two tools: pooled self-monitoring plans and the certification of animal feed plants with the RCNA (Animal Nutrition Certification Reference). Two technical platforms complete the OQUALIM feed safety standard for quality business approach, one is dedicated to non-GMO production (STNO) and another is dedicated to racehorse feeding (STNE).

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Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V. (VLOG) represents food producers and merchants as well as up- and down-stream areas of the food production industry. It promotes food manufactured without genetic engineering and engages in consumer education. VLOG awards licences for the uniform "Ohne GenTechnik" seal for food and the "VLOG geprüft" seal for feed produced accordingly. Over 13,000 foods are advertised with the "Ohne GenTechnik" seal. The Association currently represents more than 700 members, and in 2018 licensees achieved a total annual turnover of 7.7 billion euros with products labelled with the "Ohne GenTechnik" seal. Over 770 feed industry businesses are certified under the VLOG "Ohne Gentechnik" Production and Certification Standard.

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