

Thank you for participating in the webinar “What's Next Regarding Validation and Verification: Overview of ISO 16140 Series”. We received lots of questions during the webinar and we appreciate your engagement and apologize for not being able to answer all of questions during the session due to time constraints. Speakers and organizers of the webinar have reviewed questions and put together a Q&A sheet:

Q: When validating an identification method using a selective medium should the selection of exclusivity organisms only be comprised of organisms capable of growing on the selective medium used?

The reply was already provided in the presentation: “Of course, the strains of the exclusivity panel should be able to grow as much as possible on the tested selective agars. However, it is difficult to always predict the ability to growth. In that respect, a non-selective agar should be added to the study. “

Q: Some method manufacturers also have testing labs. Can those labs participate in these studies or is that a conflict of interest?

Daniele: the technical committees are used to pay attention to this.

Paul: Independence is important. Normally labs belonging to the manufacturer will not be included.

Q: In the user laboratories survey, labs were from different size, different types, different geographical areas. Were they all 17025 accredited or wasn't it a criteria?

Paul: This was not a criterion, in principle this standard can be used in any lab accredited or not. Only for accredited labs it will become a kind of requirement/standard. If an accredited lab would like to deviate from this they need to have sound reasons to do so.

Q: Do the committees give any consideration to the cost of verification and validation when determining how many samples and/or food categories must be tested?

Daniele: Of course, the study design should be realistic in the one hand, but should bring as well the expected evaluation of the method. In that respect, the study design is discussed between all the involved parties, i.e. end-users, method developers, certification bodies, food safety authorities.

Paul: especially for part 3 there was and still is a lot of discussion on the costs/work load. It is finding a balance between the work load/costs and the confidence that you will have in the end result.