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Information related to the application

for BNN re-approval 2024 of the area "A - Pesticides"

VELTIA S.A.

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Status: re-approval

Modules the laboratory applies for:

A – Pesticides

M1 – fruits and vegetables (fresh / processed)

Green: positive (requirements met)
Red: negative (requirements not met

Laboratory requirements:

Analytical procedures established
The accreditation certificate no 44-8 of the Hellenic Accreditation System, valid until 26.11.2026, and technical appendix (technical annex version 44-8 of 4. August 2023) cover all relevant analytical methods related to the analysis of pesticides in food products VELTIA Thessaloniki applies for. The flexible scope covers (a.o.) the following modules:

- Pesticide multi-residue method: UPLC-MS/MS (in-house method OB.02.001), GC-MS/MS (in-house method OB.02.001), GC-MS/MS in-house method (OB.02.022), UPLC QToF (in-house method O.B.02.036)
- Polar Pesticides: LC-MS/MS and LC-DMS-MS/MS (in-house method OB.02.037) including Bromide, Chlorate, Chlormequat, Ethephon, Ethylene thiourea (ETU), Fosetyl-Al, Perchlorate, Maleic Hydrazine, Mepiquat, Phosphonic acid, Propylene thiourea (PTU), Matrine, and oxy-Matrine (Modified method using LC- MS-MS based on QuPPe, and: "Simultaneous Determination of Matrine and Berberine in Fruits, Vegetables, and Soil Using Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry", Liu et al.: Journal of AOAC International Vol. 97, No. 1, 2014, and SANTE/ Lat. Ed. Of the European Commission
- Determination of Dithiocarbamate (CS_2) pesticide residues by GC-MS/MS, OB.02.022 Modified method using GC-MS/MS, based on: 1. "Analysis of dithiocarbamates residues in foods of plant origin involving cleavage into carbon disulfide, partitioning into isooctane", EURL Method, 2. "Validation of a GC–MS method for the estimation of dithiocarbamate fungicide residues and safety evaluation of mancozeb in fruits and vegetables", Food Chemistry 150 (2014) 175–181, 3. SANTE/ Lat. Ed. of the European Commission
- Determination of pesticide residues Phenoxy alkyl carboxylic acid (Single residue method): OB.02.034 Modified method using LC-MS-MS, based on: 1. EURL-SRM, Analysis of Acid Pesticides using QuEChERS and acidified QuEChERS method (Modified), and 2. SANTE/ Lat. Ed. of the European Commission / Determination 26 acid pesticides residues including conjugates, salts and/or esters, after alkaline Hydrolysis, O.B.02.038 Modified method using LC-MS/MS based on: 1. EURL SRM Analytical Observations Report, Analysis of Acidic Pesticides Entailing Conjugates and/or Esters in their Residue Definitions, and 2. SANTE/ Lat. Ed. of the European Commission

The **requirements** related to pesticide multi-methods (GC/MS-MS and LC/MS-MS modules) as well as related to single residue methods **are met**. Thus, compliance with BNN guidelines is confirmed.

➔ **Compliance with BNN guidelines is confirmed**

List of analytes (pesticides)
VELTIA Lab Thessaloniki provided a detailed pesticide list meeting the requirements of BNN related to the number of analytes (> 950) and the reporting limits (most often 0,010 mg/kg, sometimes 0,001 mg/kg).

REMARK:

1. *The maximum levels of the active substance Abamectin in apples and pears are below 0.01 mg/kg. As apples and pears are frequently analysed products from the fruit sector, it is strongly recommended to adjust the sensitivity of the method to the maximum levels.*

2. *The maximum levels of the active substance Emamectin B1a and its salts are below 0.01 mg/kg for a number of products. It is urgently recommended to adjust the sensitivity of the method to the maximum levels.*
3. *The reporting limit of Carbofuran (sum) is not appropriate to cover MRL exceeding's according to Reg. (EC) No. 396/2005. MRLs for stone fruits are below 0,01 mg/kg (f. ex. 0,002 mg/kg for cherries, apricots, peaches, plums etc.). It is highly recommended to adjust the reporting limit of Carbofuran to the required MRLs set for fruits and vegetables.*

➔ **Compliance with BNN guidelines is confirmed**

Ring tests / Competence tests

The results of ring tests required by BNN from 2021 to 2024 were submitted for all modules.

Module M1:

Celery, FAPAS 19315, July-September **2021:**
In this ring test, celery homogenate was spiked with 14 pesticides. VELTIA reported no false-negative and no false-positive findings. Two analytes (Clofentezine and Spirodiclofen) are not considered for the BNN evaluation with regard to quantification due to strong deviations between the "assigned value" and the spiking level (spiked content). Thus, 12 out of 12 (100 %) of the analytes were correctly quantified.

➔ **passed** according to BNN guidelines

Broccoli, BNN, April **2022:**
All 8 active substances (100 %) were identified. 2 substances were quantified outside the target area (70 – 120 % recovery of the spiked level). Fluroxypyr (sum): Recovery of 141 %, MCPA (sum): Recovery of 123 %.

➔ **passed** "*acceptably*" according to BNN guidelines

Baby food (carrot), Proof-ACS P2313-RT, Mai **2023:**
6 out of 7 active substances were identified. Nitrofen was not reported, this this is a false-negative result.

➔ **not passed** according to BNN guidelines

Mushroom, FAPAS 19397, Feb-Mar **2024:**
In this ring test, mushroom homogenate was spiked with 14 pesticides. VELTIA reported no false-negative and no false-positive findings. Two analytes (Cyhalothrin-lambda and Iprodione) are not considered for the BNN evaluation with regard to quantification due to strong deviations between the "assigned value" and the spiking level (spiked content). Thus, 12 out of 12 (100 %) of the analytes were correctly quantified.

➔ **passed** according to BNN guidelines

VELTIA passed 3 out of 4 tests with success (75 %).

Analytical report:

VELTIA lab Thessaloniki provided 2 exemplary test reports "(02) VELTIA_Certificaton of analyses_1.pdf" and "(02) VELTIA_Certificaton of analyses_2.pdf "for the matrix tomatoes and chili pepper.

Remark:
Both reports state in the evaluation: *"An investigation is required by the competent control body/authority in order to evaluate the organic status of the product based on Regulation (EU) 2018/848."* We highly recommend modifying this statement to:
"Only the competent control body/authority can evaluate the organic status of the product analysed - based on the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/848."

Whether an investigation is required according to Article 27 and 28 of the Regulation (EU) 2018/848, is not the decision of the analysing laboratory. It is the decision of the responsible food business operator in co-operation with the responsible control body / authority. A laboratory therefore can recommend an investigation, but not more.

➔ **Compliance with BNN guidelines is confirmed**

Competence in the judgement of analytical results / Application of BNN guidelines:

Not applied, as the responsible person is still in place (Mr. Dimitris Manousos) and his competence is well known by several communications within the last years and frequently verified during the relana® visits on an annual basis.

Summary

VELTIA lab Thessaloniki, Sindos (Greece), meets the analytical requirements as well as the professional prerequisites (interpretation competences, analytical test report) according to the laboratory approval guidelines of *BNN* for the **re-approval.**

Area A	Module M1:
Pesticides	Fruits and Vegetables (fresh / processed)

It is recommended to grant the BNN lab approval of the above-mentioned module for three more years (01.07.2024 to 30.06.2027) to VELTIA Lab Thessaloniki.

The following requirements have to be considered and met after BNN re-approval is issued:

- Prompt submission of the results and reports of participation in the external ring tests specified by the BNN for the respective calendar year. The respective spiking levels must also be submitted.

- Information on important changes in the laboratory with regard to responsible personnel, analytical methods, accreditation changes, etc. as soon as these take place, but no later than **15 March** of the following calendar year.

Hamburg, 07.05.2024

Dr. Silke Bruns