



Reassessment samples

Members regularly send reanalyses to Minerva, the database that assesses the analysis results. The term reanalysis is often used, but strictly speaking, it is not always a reanalysis. Because the revision of the many assessments cost a lot of time, we want to bring more structure with the introduction of Minerva 2.0. What we want to achieve, is an increased transparency and better traceability.

Progressive insight provided us with four levels of reassessments, being:

1. RML: re-measurement by the laboratory (reanalysis)
2. RSM: resampling (of the same consignment)
3. RSC: resampling on counter sample (of the same consignment)
4. RVM: re-measurement by recipe verification

Why four categories (levels) for a procedure that must correct presumably wrong results? The name of the category shows how much the analysed sample resembles the formerly analysed sample. The list above is drawn up in order of decreasing resemblance of the samples. The level also indicates what kind of mistake was (probably) made.

Reanalyses can be used to cancel a rejection in Minerva (this applies to end products). This is not compulsory and is stated in module 50 of the product certification scheme.

1. RML Re-measurement by the Lab (Re-measurement by the Lab)

During a re-measurement by the Lab (also called reanalysis) the laboratory measures one or more parameters once again on the original sample. This must be requested at the laboratory in time, whether or not through RHP, because samples are normally stored for only 4 weeks. In case of re-measurement, the corrected or verified result is sent to the member and to Minerva. It could happen that a laboratory passes on new results on their own initiative when they have discovered a mistake in their measurements.

The new results are recognisable by the code "RML-space-research number" (without hyphens) in the sample designation. Because this is going to be computerised, this must be stated literally.

2. RSM (Re-sampling and Measurement)

If the original sample is not at hand anymore at the laboratory or the sampling is seriously doubted, a resampling can be executed. The member samples the concerned consignment once again and sends it in for analysis. Whenever resampling takes place, then either the first sampling wasn't successful, or the laboratory doesn't have the sample anymore. Is the second result correct and the first not? Then the member needs to start the procedure deviating products and processes. Possibly the sample taker needs to be instructed again or it concerns a change of samples. This needs to be made clear.

In the sample designation of the new results "RSM-space-assessment number" (without hyphens) is stated. The assessment number from the assessment of the first result is copied in Minerva.

3. RSC Re-sampling on counter sample

A counter sample may only be opened with permission of the Certifying Body (CB). After permission of the CB, (a part of) this sample can be used to perform an analysis again. This can be done when the consignment itself is no longer present at the company.

In the sample designation of the new results "RSC-space-assessment number" (without hyphens) is stated. The assessment number from the assessment of the first result is copied in Minerva.





4. RVM (Recipe Verification and Measurement)

If there is doubt concerning the analysis results and the consignment that has been sampled is no longer present at the company, then recipe verification is an option. For this a sample is taken from a new consignment that was produced according to the recipe of the original consignment. In case of a recipe verification 3 other consignments with the same recipe or of the same product type are sampled. If necessary - with permission of the CB - the counter samples could be used. The procedure deviating products and processes has to be started in order to determine what went wrong in the production or sampling of the first consignment. Also if the analysis results of the other consignments are fine. Based on this the member takes corrective and preventive measures.

In the sample designation of the new results “RVM-space-assessment number” (without hyphens) is stated. The assessment number from the assessment of the first result is copied in Minerva.

Minerva

RHP cannot cancel results in Minerva just like that, even if they appear to be wrong later on. Permission of the Certifying Body (ECAS or KIWA) is necessary. In order to have an assessment cancelled, the member can file a request at their CB. This request must be provided with an adequate foundation. Then the CB will determine whether the first assessment may be cancelled and will inform RHP. A sample can and may only be rejected once, but the reanalysis is not automatically the right result. This has to be judged by the CB, except in case of re-measurement by the laboratory.

For Minerva 2.0, we want the reassessments to be structured. That’s why we ask the members and the laboratories to let the sample designation of the second measurement start with the codes like they are being used above. The rest of the sample designation is the same as that of the original sample or measurement. The new Minerva will be in English, that’s why we decided to use English abbreviations (and descriptions).

Lacking specifications

If specifications are lacking, the results cannot be approved by Minerva. So rejection will follow. Minerva can approve of the results as soon as the certifying body allows assessment of the results once again, this time with the specifications. So it is important to take care of the right specifications on the application form.

Finally

Prevention is better than cure. So take care of right sampling, labelling and a properly completed application form to minimise the chance of mistakes and keep the number of reanalyses as low as possible this way.

