

Chair: Walter Guthrie, BASF MicroCheck, UK

Secretary: Marianne Nixon, Avecia Biocides, UK/ Ina Stephan, BAM, Germany

During 1999, the Group had agreed to develop a simple test method using metalworking fluids as the matrix of choice due to past experience with this type of product. A draft method was drawn up (IBRG/FF99/006) and a Ring Test initiated with 14 participating laboratories. This test involved 2 metalworking fluid types (Soluble Oil and Semi-synthetic Oil) and 2 biocide treatments (a Triazine formaldehyde-releaser and IPBC), one for bacterial and the other for fungal control

In April 2000, the first results from the 1st Ring Test were discussed and the text of the Draft Method was reviewed. Not all participating laboratories completed the tests but the results available indicated that the Triazine and IPBC worked effectively in the Soluble Oil. The majority of the laboratories experienced great difficulty with contaminating the Semi-synthetic Oil.

In October 2000, the full data set from all the participating labs was collated and summarised by Marianne Nixon. These discussions confirmed the earlier findings that the method worked well for both biocides in the Soluble Oil. However, it reinforced the need to source an alternative Semi-synthetic Fluid to validate the test procedure in that type of system. The Chairman agreed to pursue offers from Karlshamns (Binol AB) in Sweden for test fluids to set up a 2nd Ring Test. 9 laboratories agreed to participate and an objective was set to complete the test before the Spring 2001 meeting.

The 2nd method draft (IBRG/FF00/005) produced for discussion at the October meeting was further modified to Draft 3 (IBRG/FF00/006) for issuing to participants in the 2nd Ring Test.

Marianne Nixon stood down at the October meeting and Dr Ina Stephan was elected to the position as Technical Secretary.