Session 3: The inspections shall verify that pesticide application equipment satisfies the relevant requirements

Introduction paper

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Summary
Accordingly to EU Directive EC128, pesticide application equipment may satisfy minimum requirements listed in Annex II in order to achieve a high level of protection for human health and the environment. A second aspect refers to harmonized standards precised in article 20 (1) with a principle of presumption of conformity. Finally it is also possible to propose alternative methods as potential tools for sprayer inspection.

Introduction
The application of the EU Directive on sustainable use of pesticide implies essential requirements to be fulfilled by pesticide application equipments. In parallel, each member state has to comply with such requirements when the EU directive is in the national transcription phase. Existing standards may deliver guidance to specifications, measurements and thresholds if adapted. The European Commission can mandate the CEN to deliver relevant standard in conjunction with ISO.

The Directive states that: “The inspections shall verify that pesticide application equipment satisfies the relevant requirements listed in Annex II, in order to achieve a high level of protection for human health and the environment.

Pesticide application equipment complying with harmonised standards developed in accordance with Article 20(1) shall be presumed to comply with the essential health and safety and environmental requirements.”

In addition, the general requirements are listed in the Annex II of EU Directive 2009/128/CE Main Objectives are Health, Safety & Environment and rely on several items:
- Reliability of the equipment
- Use in conformity : precision in CPP dosage and spraying
- Safe easy and complete filling and emptying, avoid leakages
- Safe handle easy & throughout cleaning. Control and stop immediately from the operator place.
- Simple, accurate and reproducible adjustments

1- Principle of sprayer inspection in France
Following EU Directive requirements, sprayer inspection in France is introduced. It is commonly divided in 10 chapters and the evaluation can be visual check, function test or measurement (Fig. 1).
2. Harmonized standards
In parallel to the application of the EU directive, the European Commission mandated the CEN (European Committee for Standardization) to deliver relevant and updated standards. The following table introduces the evolution of EN/ISO standards (Tab. 1)
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*Reference July 2012
Such standards can be considered as references for protocols and threshold values to be obtained.

**Conclusion**
The investigation of those aspects regarding essential requirements, standards, and methods, is developed through 3 presentations:

1. Development of ISO/EN standards regarding the inspection of sprayers, J.-C. Rousseau (France)
3. Inspection method for spray rate controllers in Flanders (Belgium), J. Declercq, D. Nuyttens (Belgium)