

New regulation concerning inspection intervals and exceptions of pesticide application equipment

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Summary

State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA) is the National Plant Protection Organization which is involved in the preparation of legislation for handling of pesticides within the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC. The application equipment department of the SPA dealt with legislative matters in the field of pesticide application equipment (PAE) inspection in use. This department has been repealed and its activities took over the unit of SPA which solves with pesticides registration in the CZ.

Introduction

Directive no. 128/2009/EC establishes rules for carrying out regular inspection of PAE in use. Article no. 8/3 states that by way of derogation from paragraphs 1 and 2 and, following a risk assessment for human health and the environment including an assessment of the scale of the use of the equipment, Member States may:

- apply different timetables and inspection intervals,
- exempt from inspection handheld pesticide application equipment or knapsack sprayers.

Field sprayers, air-assisted sprayers for orchards, vineyards and hop-fields, seed dressers, equipment for railway and aerial application equipment are obligate to inspection in the CZ. Brand new sprayers must be firstly inspected at the latest by the end of the two years after they were taken into use on the present.

Requirements and methods for the inspection of sprayers are conformed to EN 13790 Agricultural machinery – Sprayers – Inspection of sprayers in use – Part 1,2 (now under revision in CEN). Requirements for seed dressers, equipment for railway and aerial application equipment are stated only on the national level. Requirements for the inspection of manually operated machines are now ready on the national level. Handheld pesticide equipment and knapsack sprayers will be exempt from the inspection. This exception (in this version) is ready for a change in legislation in this area.

Conclusions

The legislation proposal is subject to the approval process in the Ministry of Agriculture. The form and content as presented on 4th SPISE may also be change significantly.