

Recommendations of the Workshop “Standardised Procedure for the Inspection of Sprayers in Europe – SPISE 3“

The participants welcomed the initiative of the SPISE Working Group and expressed their expectations to continue efforts towards harmonising sprayer inspections with the following conclusions and recommendations:

The participants took into consideration that:

- plant protection is an essential instrument for ensuring sufficient amounts of high-quality and healthy food and other agricultural products,
- justified demands of consumer and environmental protection and nature conservation are to be implemented in the interests of society and politics,
- properly maintained and checked technical equipment is important in complementing the use of authorised plant protection products according to good plant protection practice,
- properly maintained and checked technical equipment plays a crucial role in risk reduction,
- the European Parliament adopted the Pesticide Framework Directive at the second reading on 13th January 2009,
- the vote of the Council is expected in September 2009,
- pesticide application equipment (PAE) is a key element of the Framework Directive and will have to be regularly inspected,
- the CEN accepts the mandate to revise EN 13790 and to develop a series of additional European standards for the inspection of all types of equipment used by professionals,
- the Directive 2006/42/EC will become amended according to essential environmental requirements for the PAE,
- the European Commission offers the Member states support within the TAIEX (Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument – DG Enlargement) when introducing equipment inspections.

The participants welcomed that:

- The Framework Directive aims to achieve a more sustainable use of pesticides by introducing an obligatory inspection of equipment already in use in the Member states,
- provisions for mutual recognition of inspections are foreseen.

The participants recommend that:

- the European Commission and Member states should take the proposal for the harmonised (uniform) enforcement of the inspection of PAE already in use into account in order to ensure comparable and high quality inspections,
- the certification systems proposed for mutual recognition of inspections among the Member States are recognised by the Member States and considered for future recognitions,
- the inspection procedure of brand new PAE is adapted to current needs and makes use of positive experience by inspecting PAE before it is used for the first time,
- the recommendations of Session 4 regarding regular calibrations and technical checks should be considered as part of good plant protection practice. It should be reflected in the good plant protection practice,
- the recommendations of Session 6 concerning criteria for rejecting the sprayers, authorisation and monitoring of workshops should be considered by the Member States to develop further regulations/protocols,
- the information packages of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands on PAE available on the Internet (JKI website) are maintained and adapted to their current developments,
- the SPISE working group should continue its work on advising on technical aspects of inspections in the Member States, and that it may serve as a pool of experts for questions on PAE, in particular plant protection equipment, and prepare a 4th SPISE workshop in collaboration with the European Commission in the near future.