

Conclusions of Session 4

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Topics discussed

- Calibration methods are subject to many discussions and the best methods for bush- and tree crops are not agreed on.
- Recommended calibration methods vary between Member States.
- Factors that should cause new calibration or technical checks.
- Sprayer manufacturers already give recommendations on calibration and technical checks in operator handbooks. Should the demanded checks be different from these?

Conclusions and draft proposal supplementations

- Calibrations should be km/h, l/min and airflow (if required).
- Calibration should be done annually, after repairs and after technical changes which also may be caused by changes of e.g. weather, crop or development stage. At minimum equipment should be calibrated and checked every year before the treatment-season start.
- Technical checks should be done annually and after repairs and technical changes.
- Proposal for checklists/protocols are presented in Annex A and B.

List of subjects to be dealt with by SWG into account

- To develop training-courses it would be useful with uniform recommendation for calibration.
- To develop training-courses it would be useful with uniform recommendation for technical checks of equipment.
- The expression "regular" needs to be defined and recommendations to be given given at European level. There is a need for recommendations about intervals between calibrations and checks: if it should be in a timely base e.g. each year, every week, after specified hours use or if it should be related to treated area or quantity. Mixtures of definitions or other definitions may be relevant. The opinions and needs may vary between Member States.
- Equipment used very much e.g. many thousands of hectares per season, operating 24 hrs/day during high season or equipment used by contractors where the use also includes road transports, may require other time tables. Another example requiring checks and calibration more often could be equipment for seed treatment treating very large quantities.
- There is a need for recommendations on protocols and checklist for regular calibrations and regular technical checks. The examples presented at SPISE 3 workshop and in Annex A and B can be used as basis.