

Session 5: Member States shall establish certificate systems for mutual recognition of the certificates (according article 8/6)

Introduction paper

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Abstract

With the Frame Work Directive (FWD) each Member State (MS) is obliged to appoint a responsible body for implementing and running an inspection scheme for all PAE and shall inform the Commission thereof. This responsible bodies issues (or let grant on behalf of) the certificates for the inspected and approved sprayers. This certificate should exist of a (if possible) harmonised official test report and a label on the sprayer. This label shall be placed on a clearly visible place on the machine to make an easy check on the validity of the certificate possible. Both the test report and the label shall be unique and make clearly visible when the inspection expires.

In the FWD the mutual recognition of inspections between MS is organised. For realising a proper system of mutual recognition it is very important that the sprayer-inspection schemes in the different MS have an equal quality. Important is this case is a uniform execution of the inspections, within a MS but also in the different MS. Therefore a EU wide quality assurance system would be preferable.

Mutual recognition between the MS will only be possible if the expiring date of the last issued certificate of a sprayer is equal of shorter than the time period of the inspection interval applicable in its own territory and when each MS can be sure that the inspected sprayer fully fore fill the requirements in article 4 of paragraph 8 of the FWD. In paragraph 6 of the Framework Directive Sustainable use of Pesticides (FWD) is explained how the inspections should be organised in each Member State (MS) and are MS endeavoured to recognise certificates of inspected sprayers issued in other MS.

Responsible bodies.

To implement and execute the inspections of all application equipment for pesticides each MS have to establish a body which is in this MS responsible for implementing and running the testing scheme. It is the responsibility of each MS how to organise the testing scheme. It can be done by means of a State inspection service or the inspections can be done by private companies. The MS have also the freedom how to organise the responsible body and can set their own demands to such a body in terms of organisation and management. As stated in the FWD, the MS has to inform the Commission about this body.

- The main task of such a body is to organise that in a MS the inspections of all equipment is done in a uniform way in line with the article 8/4 in which are the requirements of the PAE. It is very important that all tests are done according to a high level of quality and that all tests are done in a uniform way. To organise this uniform inspections some things have to be done:
- There has to be clear standards how to test the equipment. For all different kinds of equipment there has to be uniform and clear standards. The base for performing the tests are the harmonised EN standards but for the test personnel there have a be a clear explanation of the interpretation of this standards to all types of equipment adopted to the specific needs in the MS. This is important to be sure that all tests are done in a uniform way.
- Important for a good quality and uniformity of the performed tests is well trained test personnel. This can both be personnel of a State inspection service or from private companies. There has to be a good basic training in which a proper education about the testing standard, the testing equipment and spraying technique. But in order to keep the level high, periodical refreshing courses are needed to keep the knowledge of the testers actual for new developments in spraying technique, testing equipment and development of the standards.

- There must be uniform guidelines for the requirements of test equipment and test conditions for the workshops or test teams. On base of the harmonised standards uniform guidelines for the equipment has to be made.
- The responsible body has to organise the issuing of certificated for equipment what is approved. The body can issue this certificates themselves or grant the workshops to issue this certificates on behalf of the responsible body. To have a good overview of all performed test in a MS and the results of the tests, it is needed the responsible body gather the results of all tests in a national database.
- To guarantee the quality and uniformity of all performed tests, a system of Quality Assurance in needed. This system should include all elements needed for control on the uniformity of the tests and shall contain elements like the organisation of the supervision on the workshops or test teams, control and calibration of test equipment, education of the test personnel, review on already inspected sprayers, etc.

Certificate systems

Each MS shall design and establish a system for issuing certificates for approved PAE. With this certificates the validity of the inspection can be verified. In line with the harmonised standards, the results and conclusions of an inspection has to summarized on a test report. But for an easy verification a label should be placed on the tested sprayer. The relation between the test-report and the label can be made by a unique identification number both on the report and the label. In order to endeavour mutual recognition between the member states it is important that there is a uniformity in both test reports and labels.

Test report

The official test report shall give a clear and unique overview of the result of the performed test. It shall be clear that it is an official document, that is issued by or on behalf of the responsible body, what workshop, test operator or test team has performed the inspection, give a clear identification of the owner and the machine, have a unique identification (number) and show both the test date and date of expiring. In figure 1 is the header of an example of a test report shown.

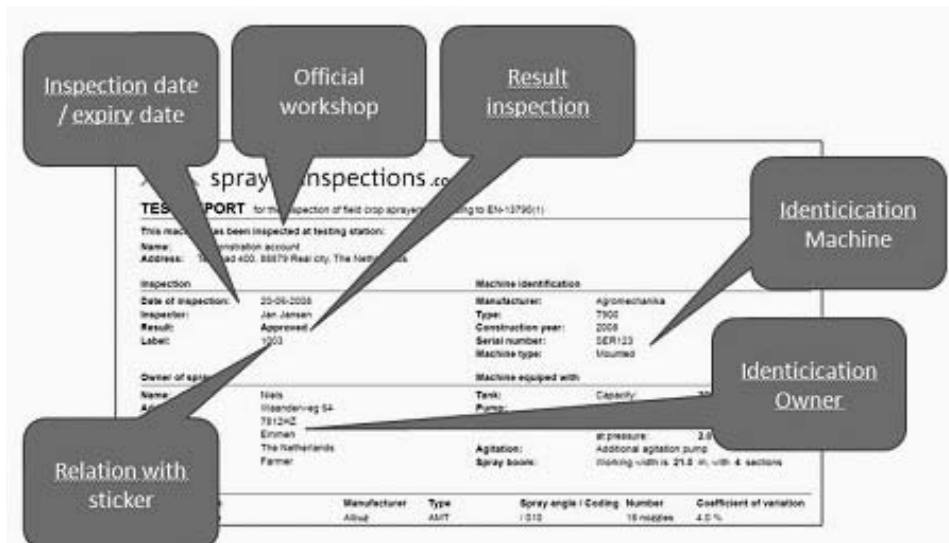


Fig. 1 Example of the header of a test report

The report shall also contain information about the results of the different parts of the test.

Label

For an easy validation of the validity of the inspection of a sprayer a label should be placed on a clearly visible place on the machine. By design of the label, it shall be clear that it is an official label. When the machine is tested with good results, the test operator will place the label on the machine. To have a relation with the test report, the label shall have a unique identification number. On the label shall also be clear what the expiring date of the certificate is. In figure 2 is an example of a label what is in use in the Netherlands.

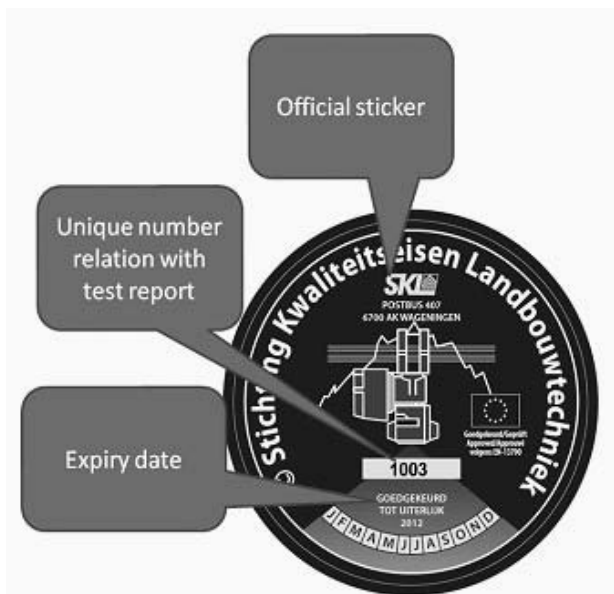


Fig. 2 Example of a label for placing on approved machines

Mutual recognition

In the FWD Member States shall recognise certificates what are granted in other Member States. This is both important for owners, manufacturers and dealers of sprayers. This will prevent double inspections. This mutual recognition is most actual in border regions where farmers are working in different member states and in situations where new or used sprayers are being im- and exported to other MS. With this mutual recognition the farmer has the choice in which MS his sprayer will be inspected.

Important for the mutual recognition is that the MS have to sure that the certificated is issued by or on behalf of the responsible body of another MS and that the inspection is fully done in line with paragraph 4. The validity of the certificate must fit in the interval of the MS, the time period since the last inspection carried out in the other MS is equal to or shorter than the time period of the inspection interval applicable in its own territory.

Conclusion

The FWD provides MS to designate a body responsible for implementing a inspection scheme for all PAE. Important elements in implementing such a scheme are all cases what endeavour the uniformity and quality of the performed tests. The main tasks of this responsible body is to organise the inspection scheme in a uniform way and to grant certificates to approved PAE. This certificate exists of both an official test report and a label on the machine. With this elements a clear check on the validity of the certificate is possible. Mutual recognition of certificates between MS is forced by the FWD. For a proper mutual recognition a system of quality assurance of the performed inspections in needed.