



Procedure for inspection of testing stations for field crop and air-assisted sprayers for bush and tree crops

1. Aim

The objective of the inspections is to verify if the SKL-tests of field crop and air-assisted sprayers are carried out correctly in order to guarantee the quality and uniformity of the performed tests.

2. Scope

This procedure is of importance for SKL Testing Stations, SKL-secretary, the inspectors and owners of spraying equipment.

3. References:

- 3.1. HPA and PT regulation use application equipment for plant protection products 2003
- 3.2. Contract SKL with testing station
- 3.3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS for the installation of a SKL testing station for field crop sprayers
- 3.4. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS for the installation of a SKL testing station for air-assisted sprayers for bush and tree crops

4. Working method

4.1. Reporting of the planning of the tests by the testing stations

- 4.1.1. Testing stations are reporting to the SKL secretary in advance the work plan of their tests and the locations where the tests will be performed. This is possible via the SKL website (www.skлкеuring.nl), by e-mail (info@skлкеuring.nl) or by fax (+317-479705)
 - 4.1.1.1. At the latest the day before the testing take place before 15.00h. If possible for a longer period in advance
 - 4.1.1.2. At high exception on the testing day before 08.00h.
 - 4.1.1.3. Tests in the weekend and on Monday must have been communicated Friday afternoon before 15.00h.
- 4.1.2. Deviations with regard to the communicated testing plan must be passed on to the SKL secretary
- 4.1.3. At the report must be indicated at what time the tests are planned.

4.2. Reporting to the SKL inspectors

A report with all planned tests is communicated at the end of each day by the SKL-secretary to the SKL inspectors. On base of this report they will plan the stations they want to visit. A possible late communicated test is still incorporated in the procedure.

4.3. Implementation of the inspection

- 4.3.1. The inspection starts with the control of the testing facilities:
 - 4.3.1.1. Does the testing place meet the requirements
 - 4.3.1.2. Is the test performed by a certified test operator
 - 4.3.1.3. Is the patternator in good order and work accurate
 - 4.3.1.4. Is the pressure gauge in order and accurate
 - 4.3.1.5. Is the flowmeter in order and accurate

- 4.3.1.6. Is the single nozzle output measuring device in order (only air-assisted sprayer testing stations)
- 4.3.2. One machine is chosen from the already inspected sprayers.
 - 4.3.2.1. The machine is globally inspected by means of the filled in testing form
 - 4.3.2.2. The pressure gauge is tested
 - 4.3.2.3. The cross distribution is tested, evt. a part of the boom. If it has been tested with a Spray scanner, the written results are inspected.
- 4.3.3. It is eventually possible that the inspector will visit an already tested sprayer what has already left the testing site at another location to inspect that sprayer visually.
- 4.3.4. The inspector discusses the results of the inspection with the responsible person of the testing station and the test operator. From items what were not in order, a determination of the cause and how recurrence can be prevented is discussed.
- 4.4. Report to SKL-secretary
 The results of the inspections are written on an inspection-report by the inspectors. The inspectors will send this report is to the SKL-secretary.
 On this report the next items are mentioned:
 - 4.4.1. General data (name test station, test location, inspected machine, name test operator, date and time of the inspection)
 - 4.4.2. Test facilities (test location, test equipment) (condition and measuring values)
 - 4.4.3. Testing form
 - 4.4.4. Results performed test
 - 4.4.5. Carried out inspection points and findings
 - 4.4.6. From items what were not in order, a determination of the cause and how recurrence can be prevented is given.

5. Action SKL secretariat

- 5.1. Appraisal and communications
 SKL-secretary processes the reports and takes the necessary action.
 - 5.1.1. The results of the inspections are sent within 2 weeks to the test station.
 - 5.1.2. Shortcomings of the testing station or of the test operator are classified in the category "not serious" and "seriously".
 - 5.1.3. Not Serious shortcomings are reported written by SKL-secretary to the test station.
 - 5.1.4. Serious shortcomings (to see 5.2) are leading to written warnings, re-inspections or sanctions (see 5.3 and 5.4).
- 5.2. Serious shortcomings
 - 5.2.1. Concerning the testing station:
 - 5.2.1.1. Outside tests with insufficient protection against weather influences
 - 5.2.1.2. Patternator not well
 - 5.2.1.3. Test pressure gauge not in order
 - 5.2.1.4. Tests are carried out on a location or time what was not communicated to the SKL secretary.
 - 5.2.1.5. The test are performed by a non-certified person
 - 5.2.1.6. Insufficient collaboration to the inspection
 - 5.2.2. Concerning the tested sprayer:
 - 5.2.2.1. the distribution pattern is not evaluated correctly
 - 5.2.2.2. Pressure gauge or pump not in order
 - 5.2.2.3. Machine is leaking
 - 5.2.2.4. Pump or hoses damaged
 - 5.2.2.5. Loose in any joints of the spray-boom or bended spray-boom
- 5.3. Warnings, re-inspections/repeated inspections
 - 5.3.1. The number of Serious Shortcomings is counted within current and the previous calendar year.

- 5.3.2. The 1st time: Written warning and re-inspection at the expense of the testing station. If there are lacks to the test place or test equipment the testing station has to solve this first before continuing with the inspections. This has to be proven by a re-inspection of the SKL-inspector. In other cases there is a repeated inspection. The costs of these repeated inspections are at the expense of the testing station. If the pressure gauge or flowmeter is again calibrated again, sending a copy of the concerning calibration to SKL-secretary can be enough.
- 5.3.3. The 2e time: Second warning and re-inspection at the expense of the testing station
- 5.3.4. The 3e time: Third warning and re-inspection at the expense of the testing station.

5.4. Sanctions

The Board of the SKL decides sanctions

- 5.4.1. When a serious shortcoming is observed for the 3e time within the determined period, the testing competence of the test-operator can be withdrawn.
- 5.4.2. When a serious shortcoming is observed for the 4e time within the determined period, the Board of the SKL can suspend the test approval of the testing station for a certain period.

6. **Reviews and appeal**

- 6.1. Objections against the execution of the inspection, the conclusions and the sanctions, one can present within 14 days after the communication of SKL-secretary to Board of the SKL. After reception of the objection the Board of the SKL pronounce sentence within 4 weeks.
- 6.2. Against the pronouncement of Board of the SKL is objection possible at the HPA in The Hague.

Wageningen, 20 September 1999