

Introduction to the workshop

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The starting point for this workshop is the fact that the European standard EN 13790, 'Inspection of Sprayers in Use', with parts 1 and 2, was published at the beginning of 2003. We experts in the Member States (MS) and candidate countries (CC) then asked ourselves how we should handle the standard and what we should do as a follow-up to what had already been achieved. The CEN members are obliged in accordance with CEN regulations to give the European standard EN 13790 the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2003; conflicting national standards are to be withdrawn at the latest by November 2003. Urgent action must therefore be taken.

My first talks with colleagues on the subject of creating a European platform to advise on continuing the process were very positive. This made me begin with concrete plans for this workshop.

The reason we are setting the workshop now in spring is due to the fact that

- plant protection inspections take place at exactly this time and are thus a current topic for us all, and
- plant protection inspections can be experienced live in spring, a special aspect of our Workshop.

In preparing and organising the programme we, and by we I mean my colleagues on the scientific committee, as well as my colleagues from the Application Techniques Division, were led by the following considerations. I would like to illustrate these by the next figure, fig. 1. The present situation in the Member States and candidate countries is characterised by great differences.

This will become clear in the talks and posters on Session 1 (S1). The resulting disadvantages do not have to be explained in detail. The fact that this situation calls for changes was recognised by CEN members back in 1997. On the 17th of July of the same year, work on a European standard was included in the CEN/TC 144 programme of work. Following around 6 years' work, European standard EN 13790 was published in the spring of last year (2003).

As is generally known, and also stated in the preface to the standard, it does not cover all aspects, but only the technical requirements for the plant protection equipment to be inspected and the testing facilities used.

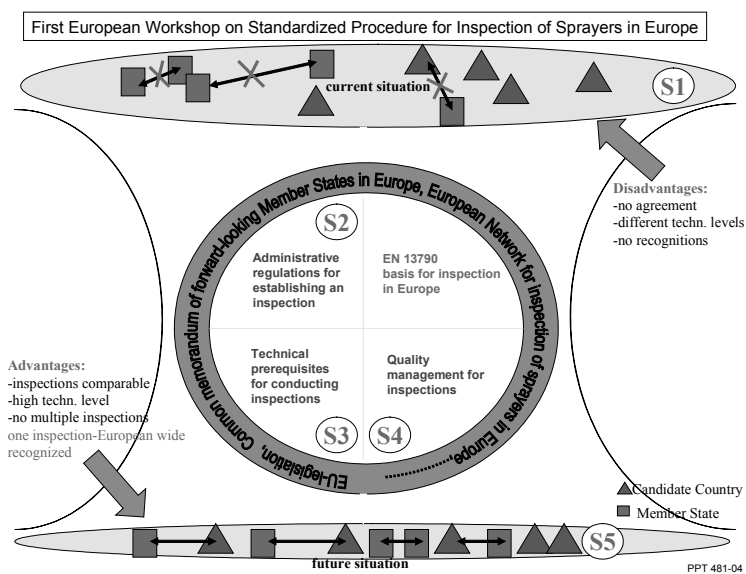


Figure 1: Present situation (S1) and need for regulation (S2, S3, S4) for a „standardized procedure for inspection of sprayers in Europe“, coming to an equivalent inspection with mutual recognition (S5)

All Member States and candidate countries who have had previous experience with the plant protection equipment inspections know that further

- administrative regulations (S 2)
- technical prerequisites (S 3) and a
- quality management system (S 4)

are needed to be able to assure reliable plant protection equipment inspections of constant high quality in the Member States.

In addition to EN 13790, these aspects should be treated within the framework of our workshop. In order to implement this in a binding manner in all Member States and candidate countries, a superordinate body of controlling/supervising is needed.

In my opinion, this can be a

- legal regulation from the EU or MS or a
- voluntary undertaking of the MS and CC, like a Common Memorandum of forward looking MS or an European Network for inspection of sprayers in Europe.

Mr. Liegeois will, I am sure, be able to tell us more about this.

In my opinion, plant protection equipment inspections of constant high quality can only be achieved by a combination of measures.

This will result in (S5)

- inspections being accepted throughout the Member States and candidate countries,
- multiple inspections becoming unnecessary in the future.

What expectations have you brought with you, and what results can be achieved?

Each of us will have his own ideas and expectations, but I would still like to mention a few myself, fig. 2.

<h2>Subjects of the Spise-Workshop</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get to know of MS/CC experts dealing with inspection of sprayers• Familiarize the MS/CC with the action plan of the COM• Familiarize the MS/CC with the European Norm EN 13790• Exchange of results and experience of the current situation in MS/CC and their comparison with EN 13790 (S1)• Think about further official/legal specifications in order to make sure inspections run reliable and smoothly<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Administrative regulations required for establishing an inspection (S2)- Technical prerequisites for conducting inspections (S3)- Quality management for inspections (S4)• The following subjects have to be discussed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How to deal with minor defects?- How to deal with inspection stickers?• Definition of action plan to establish the EN 13790 and to realize inspections of equal quality throughout MS/CC for mutual recognition- Resolution about continuing the harmonization of inspection sprayers in Europe	<p>First European Workshop on Standardized Procedure for Inspection of Sprayers in Europe - Spise</p> <p>PPT 481-04</p>
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Figure 2: Subjects of the -SPISE- workshop

You can find additional documents for the workshop course in the book of abstracts.

I hope that now you feel very convenient, the programme meets your approval and I wish our workshop a good course.