



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Protecting the Natural Environment
Biotechnology, Pesticides and Health

Brussels, 24th November 2008
M/435 EN

Mandate to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI for the development of a standards on inspection of pesticide application equipment in use.

1. SCOPE

This mandate concerns the development of standards concerning the inspection of pesticide application equipment used by professionals.

2. JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Policy background

The Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides was adopted by the European Commission in July 2006, together with its main legislative instrument, a proposal for a Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

Under this new Directive, Member States will have to regularly ensure that pesticide application equipment used by professionals comply with essential health and safety and environmental requirements listed in annex to the directive.

Ongoing discussions in the European Parliament and the Council for the adoption of the proposed Framework Directive do not challenge the principle of having regular inspections of pesticide application equipment used by professionals. The only outstanding uncertainty regards the actual list of types of equipment for which no derogation from the inspection provision may be obtained.

Equipment in compliance with standards developed in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 6(3) of Directive 98/34/EC shall be presumed to comply with the essential health and safety and environmental requirements.

CEN standards would contribute to harmonisation of inspection systems among Member States and facilitate mutual recognition of control certificates for application equipment.

2.2 Needs

Standards are needed for all pesticide application equipment used by professionals. They should detail the requirements to be fulfilled during the inspection procedure to ensure the protection of health and safety and the environment.

Standards for inspection of pesticide application equipment already exist for field crop sprayers and air-assisted sprayers for bush and tree crops (EN 13790-1 and 2), which are the main types of equipment used by professionals.

However, concerns exist with this standard in so far as it specifies that the measurement of transverse distribution can be achieved using two different methods (i.e. measurement on patternator or flow rate measurement) which can lead to different results for one same sprayer.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

CEN is requested to:

Develop European standards for the inspection of all types of equipment used by professionals that will enable equipment to comply with the essential health and safety and environmental requirements listed in Annex 2 to the Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

The most common other types of pesticide equipment to be scrutinised belong to the following main categories:

- Tractor mounted, trailed or self-propelled sprayers (including spray trains)
- Aircraft sprayers (airplanes/helicopters + mixing station)
- Handheld or portable sprayers
- Others (dusters, foggers, granules applicators, seed treatment equipment, large-scale batch treatment, large-scale continuous application (conveyor belt), mist blowers/generators, wipers, etc.)

Furthermore, standards for specific important spare parts of the application equipments like the nozzles could also be developed under this mandate, if deemed necessary.

Analyse whether the technical uncertainties that arise from EN 13790 may be easily solved. If this was deemed to be the case, a revision of the standard may be needed.

4. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE

The work will be organised according to the CEN procedures on establishing CEN standards. A technical committee on tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry has already been established in CEN to develop EN 13790 Parts 1 and 2.

ISO standards developed for some equipment should also be taken into account in the execution of the mandate.

CEN will provide the Commission with a detailed and prioritised work programme and a timetable for the adoption of the standards needed within three months of the acceptance of the mandate. The European standards are to be adopted within three years from acceptance of the mandate. At this time, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) must be available as well as the correct titles in the other official Community languages.

CEN will keep the Commission informed at least once a year following the submission of the work programme of the measures taken to execute this mandate.

The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC (OJ L 217, 5.8.1998 p.18) shall commence when CEN accepts this standardisation mandate.

5. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED

The standard should be developed by representatives of operators in the supply chain and public authorities. Representatives of European associations have shown considerable interest in the project (i.e. SPISE).

As appropriate, CEN will invite the representative organisations of consumers' interests (ANEC), environmental protection (ECOS), workers (ETUI-REHS) and small and medium-size enterprises (NORMAPME) to take part in the standardisation work.

The organisation of manufacturers of agricultural tractors (CEMA) as well as representatives of farmers' organisations (e.g. COPA-COGECA) and trade unions representing agricultural workers should also be involved in the process.