Test methods not yet covered by EN 16122 – micro granule applicators and slug pellet applicators
NSTS (UK) - History

- NSTS started in 2003
  - 15,372 sprayers tested in last 12 months
- Started testing granule applicators in 2005
- Testing slug pellet applicators from Feb 2016
Legislation

- UK Crop Assurance and supermarket protocols
- UK requirement for operators to be qualified
- Industry led initiatives – pre SUD
  - Nematicide Stewardship Programme (NSP) - 2015
    Biennial testing
  - Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) - 2008
    Best practice advice and recommendations
Granule applicators

• Machines tested may be applying
  – Nematicides
  – Herbicides (Avadex)
  – (Slug pellets)
  – Powders
Granule applicators

• 103 qualified Examiners - 20 doing most tests
• 665 machines tested in the last 12 months
Granule applicators

• Machine test
  – Check guards, structural condition, hoppers
  – Metering system, pipework, fishtails
  – Boom and pneumatic system
Granule applicators

• Output check of metering system
  – Tolerance +/- 10% of the average
Slug pellet applicators

- Very few machines tested until this year
- Farmer awareness of SUD requirements
Slug pellet applicators

- 2 Examiner training centres
- 53 qualified Examiners, many also testing fertiliser spreaders
Slug pellet applicators – Test Kit

- 20 trays with baffles
- Litre measure & scales, hardness tester, granulometer
- Tachometer – contact & optical
Slug pellet applicators

- Test procedure similar to granules
- Two part output check using trays
  1. To confirm width of spread
  2. To check balance of spread left and right to within +/- 15% of the average
Slug pellet applicator

Slug pellet applicator tray layout - 12 metre spread

Direction of Travel

Trays

Tape measure

Wind Direction
Slug pellet applicators

• Almost 400 machines tested since February
• Many more expected to be tested in the next 12 months
• But remember – SUD requirements
  – Machines less than 5 years old do not need testing
  – Once tested, re-test due every 6 years
Thank You

Ian Forman
National Sprayer Testing Scheme
0044 1733 207608
0044 7920 958972
ianf@aea.uk.com