SURVEY ON PROBLEMS AND CRITICISMS OF THE INSPECTION SERVICE OF SPRAYERS IN USE IN ITALY

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THE ITALIAN SITUATION

No official PAE National register

~ 600,000 PAE in use (estimation)

200,000 field crop sprayers

400,000 vineyard and orchard sprayers

50,000 hand held sprayers

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THE ITALIAN SITUATION

Workshop
Authorised inspectors

Tot. Workshop: 202*
Tot. Authorised inspectors: 650*

*www.centriprovairroratrici.unito.it (online database)
THE ITALIAN SITUATION

At present the inspected sprayers represent just 17% of PAE that should be inspected before 26/11/2016
In order to try to understand the reasons of such an unsatisfactory situation an ad hoc survey (questionnaire with multiple answers) was carried out in 2016.

The questionnaire was sent to the Regional/Autonomous Province Authorities Responsibles for the PAE inspection activities.

14/21 of the Regional/Autonomous Province have fullfilled the questionnarie
THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT

Three possible categories of reasons of the limited inspections activities were considered: 1) ORGANIZATIONAL

2) OPERATIVE

3) ECONOMIC

Asking to assign a score to each answer provided (max score = higher importance)

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THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT
(1- ORGANIZATIONAL CRITICISM)

a) Reasons influencing limited inspections execution

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

☒ insufficient information of the sprayers owners/users about the mandatory sprayers inspections;

☒ limited presence of licensed workshops and technicians;

☒ excessive cost of the sprayers inspections;

☒ limited period of time available over the year to carry out the inspection activity;

☒ not adequate organization of the sprayers inspections;

☒ lack or delay in the implementation of a local resolution for activating the inspection service
THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT
(1- ORGANIZATIONAL CRITICISM)

b) Reasons hampering their scheduling over time (delay)

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

- lack of a Regional coordination of the sprayers inspections;
- lack of guidelines about the organization and the scheduling of the inspections;
- difficulties to reach and to inform the farmers/sprayers users about the inspection activity.
THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT
(2- OPERATIVE CRITICISM)

Problems that technicians may face during:

a) pre-inspection

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

☐ Inadequate cleaning of the sprayer;

☐ Inadequate condition of safety devices;

☐ Lack of sprayers required components;

☐ Damage or bad conditions of the sprayers

b) functional inspection

☐ Difficulties in making the inspection of some PAE components;

☐ Difficulties in making the inspection of electronic PAE components;

c) recording of data to be registered during the inspection

☐ Lack or inadequate information about the sprayers inspected;

☐ Lack or inadequate information about the normal use of sprayers inspected
THE SURVEY CARRIED OUT (3- ECONOMIC CRITICISM)

Items which have more incidence on the costs paid by the workshops to carry out the inspection activity

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

- depreciation of the cost paid for the inspection equipment;
- manpower costs;
- travel costs (mobile workshops);
- management cost of the structure where the inspection activity is carried out (fixed workshop);
MAIN RESULTS
(1- ORGANIZATIONAL CRITICISM)

Reason of the limited PAE inspection activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inadequate</td>
<td>limited number of workshops/inspectors</td>
<td>High inspection costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Short time for</td>
<td>Inadequate inspection</td>
<td>Failure or delay of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inspection</td>
<td>organization</td>
<td>legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(to close</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>deadline)</td>
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Score

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MAIN RESULTS
(1- ORGANIZATIONAL CRITICISM)

Reasons which hamper inspections scheduling

- Lack of regional coordination
- Lack of guidelines
- Difficulty to inform farmers
- Other

Score

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MAIN RESULTS
(1- ORGANIZATIONAL CRITICISM)

Institutions dealing with the information of PAE mandatory inspection
Main problems detected during pre-inspection

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<th>D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>Inadequate cleaning of the sprayer</td>
<td>Inadequate condition of safety devices</td>
<td>Lack of sprayers components required</td>
<td>Damages or bad conditions of the sprayers</td>
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MAIN RESULTS

(2- OPERATIVE CRITICISM)

Main problems detected during inspection
Workshop main costs categories

MAIN RESULTS
(3- ECONOMIC CRITICISM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobile Travelling</th>
<th>Workshop equipment</th>
<th>Labour</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIXED</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop stable</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop equipment</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>
SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS CONSIDERED MOST APPROPRIATE TO SOLVE THE EXISTING CRITICISMS

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase farmers information</td>
<td>Invite to submit the sprayers to inspection at predefined periods</td>
<td>Increase farmers information about the sprayer preparation (for the inspection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Improve the data recording procedure</td>
<td>Uniform nation wide the maximum inspection cost</td>
<td>Establish a minimum inspection cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Chart showing scores for different solutions](chart.png)
CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the results obtained in the survey and of the solutions proposed, the information activity towards the farmers has to be considered as a priority to improve the PAE inspection activities in Italy.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
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