



Danish Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Protection Agency

Three years of experience - inspection of sprayers in Denmark

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Agenda

- 1. Status of inspection of sprayers in Denmark**
- 2. IT system**
- 3. Education and dialogue with workshops**
- 4. Uniform rep./inspections**
- 5. Problems with old sprayers**
- 6. Human health risk**





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1. Status of the inspection of sprayers in Denmark

Status of inspections in Denmark



- **We follow the standards ... more or less!**
- **Regulation based on close collaboration with stakeholders**
- **125 workshops carry out inspections (as well as repairs)**
- **320 inspectors educated – field crop sp. and mist blowers (4 days)**
- **Few inspectors educated in greenhouse sprayers (1 suppl. day)**
- **First greenhouse sprayer to be inspected within a few days**
- **IT system developed and sticker-system (fees for each sticker)**
- **External company to inspect the inspectors/workshops/equipment**
- **First sprayer inspected in February 2014**
- **Now 5800 sprayers inspected – out of maybe 10.000-15.000?**



We got quite far within a few years – how did we manage?

- **An EU requirements that needs to be fulfilled within a deadline – so no way around it**
- **We had absolutely no knowledge or experience back in 2012**
- **You need to learn from countries that resemble your own country and those with most experience**
- **You need to gather the (maybe few) relevant people in your country with knowledge and interest in the field**
- **You need to establish good collaboration with the workshops and inspectors**
- **You need to inform the owners of the sprayers about the new requirements - and the benefit for them**





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2. IT-system for inspection of sprayers

What is the Sonima-IT system used for

- Inspectors order **stickers**
- The workshops can keep record of all their **customers** and their **sprayers**
- Inspectors **insert all data** during the inspection process including all repairs
- Store all **inspection reports** and **pdf files** generated at inspection.
- They can see when sprayers need new inspection – after three years
- All types of **nozzles** and all types of **sprayers** are included
- They can see latest version of **guideline document** and **newsletters**



The Danish EPA use the IT system for

- **Follow the work** of the workshops
- We can see all the **inspection reports** for all sprayers
- We can check the **numbers** and **types** of sprayers inspected
- Checking if all workshops carry out the same types of and same level of repairs before inspections – **uniform inspections**
- Filling in our inspections reports based on the **quality assurance** of workshops
- **Communicating** to the workshops new versions of guidelines for inspections, newsletters on inspections etc.
- Etc.



3. Education and dialogue with workshops



Was the education of inspectors sufficient?

Yes!

- 4 days course for field crop sprayers and mist blowers.
- 1 additional day for fixed and semi mobile sprayers (from August 2016)
- Both courses finalised with a test.



How often do inspectors need updating courses? Need for other types of dialogue?

Every 5 years and earlier if new standards/new regulation is introduced

But: optimal to have a one-day meeting each year for all inspectors

Purpose of dialogue between inspectors:

- to discuss various situations and problems related to inspections
- to optimise the quality of the inspections and in particular to secure uniform inspections

Experience:

- We had a one-day meeting for all inspectors in 2015 at three locations.
– with great success.
- Again this coming winter 2016-2017



Quality assurance of inspection companies and dialogue

External consultancy company – now SKL.

Their task is to:

1. Make sure the inspections are done **correct and uniform** throughout the country
2. Make sure the testing **equipment** and **facilities** are OK.
3. Give **guidance** to inspection companies and **distribute good practices** and experiences between inspection companies.
4. Provide the Danish EPA with information for our **newsletters** to inspection companies and for ideas to **improve our guidance document** on inspection of sprayers.



4. Uniform repairs and inspections?



Do the inspectors carry out inspection and carry out repairs in a uniform way? How to check this?

In Denmark inspecting workshops can carry out needed repairs.

They are supposed to indicate all repairs in the inspection reports.

A number of workshops or individual inspectors did NOT indicate ANY repairs of sprayers when finalising the inspecting report. Others indicated many rep.

We are sending out letters to the workshops that indicated none or very few repairs.



5. Problems with old sprayers



Do workshops make “quick” inspections of old sprayers?

Many old sprayers will be phased out due to the requirement of inspection.

... Where will they end up? Sold very cheap ... and used? Left at the farm?

Recently two farmers have complained about used sprayers bought as newly inspected – but they seem not properly inspected.

We need to know if this a happening at several workshops? We need to identify these and it will have consequences for the workshops.



6. Human health risk?



Will inspectors be exposed to pesticide residues?

Workshops ask for regulation on protection of workers that carry out inspections

... To what extent will they be exposed to pesticides?

... How do they protect themselves?

... How to protect other workers in the workshops (bystanders)



Discussion

- How to secure uniform repairs and inspection of sprayers?
- How to prevent old and non inspected sprayers from being used?
- Will inspectors at workshops be exposed to pesticide residues ? And will this be a human health risk?

Comments - Questions

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