

Equipment Inspection for Pesticide Users

August 2016

There is a new requirement for the regular inspection of Plant Protection Product (PPP) application equipment. **All application equipment (except knapsack and handheld sprayers)** which is used on or after 26 November 2016 must be tested unless it is less than five years old on that date. New equipment has until its fifth anniversary to be tested for the first time. After 26 November 2016 you must ensure equipment is inspected to certain timetables (see table on last page).

You must also conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of pesticide application equipment that you use. A sample checklist can be found here: www.nsts.org.uk/static/assets/down

Knapsacks and handheld equipment do not need to be tested but must be regularly calibrated and checked and if possible a record kept. A sample checklist can be found here: www.nsts.org.uk/static/assets/downloads/knapsackchecklist.pdf

A full list of different types of equipment that requires testing by pesticide users can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/pesticides-uk-national-action-plan

Equipment that is not in use or which is not used for applying pesticides is not affected.

Sprayer Testing Inspection Intervals

By 26th November 2016

Ensure that all non-exempt pesticide application equipment in use, including slug pellet and granular applicators have been tested.

By 2020

Ensure all pesticide application equipment with a boom over 3m, air blast sprayers and aerial sprayers have been tested within the last 5 years.

After 2020

Ensure all pesticide application equipment with a boom over 3m, air blast and aerial sprayers are tested every 3 years. Boom sprayers of 3m or less need to be re-tested every six years, along with slug pellet, granular and other applicators.

How do I get my Equipment Inspected?

National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) has been designated as a body responsible for implementing equipment testing. You can find an approved NSTS examiner at www.nsts.org.uk

Where weed control is rarely practiced consider whether the job is best left to a qualified contractor with NSTS tested equipment and qualified operators who are members of the National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO).

Use this decision tree to help work out how often each piece of equipment you use needs to be tested:

