

Pellet Applicator Testing

UK regulation requires that all pesticide application equipment in use is tested by **26th November 2016**.

- Requirement of SUD - Tested by 26th November 2016 and then every 6 years thereafter
- If equipment is less than 5 years old it needs testing by its 5th anniversary
- Crop assurance protocols may require more frequent testing
- Promotes best practice to have your machine tested for each product applied
- Confirms width of spread to avoid contamination of watercourses and other non-target areas
- Pellet manufacturers can supply dummy product to use during the test. It is important to use the product that mirrors the one to be used
- Qualified examiners throughout the country
- Electronic recording of the test then decal affixed to machine

Why does this matter

A well maintained and regularly tested machine helps to ensure pesticide operations are safe for the operator and environment, ensuring efficient and accurate on target application. These measures are a legal requirement. Non-compliance could lead to prosecution and threaten your farm assurance status and single farm payment.

Why do you have to do this?

All EU countries are implementing the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD)*. The Directive sets minimum standards for the safe use of professional plant protection products (pesticides). Due to existing VI schemes: the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans and National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO), many farmers and growers are already meeting most of the requirements of the Directive. However, those not currently having all their sprayers, granular applicators, slug pelleters and other pesticide application equipment tested, will now need to do so.

For more advice see over.

Spreader testing plays an important role in the accuracy of applying slug pellets and has the full support of the Metaldehyde Stewardship Group

To get your machine tested go to

www.nsts.org.uk

* The legal requirements are contained in the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012



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The Issue

The diligent use of metaldehyde to protect establishing crops from slug attack has never been so important.

The industry must work together to cut the number of raw water exceedances that are threatening the UK's ability to comply with water quality legislation, because:

- Abiding by the MSG Guidelines (see below) can make a difference
- Making pelleting decisions on a field-by-field basis in high risk fields is part of the solution.

MSG guidelines

- △ Use minimum active per ha to avoid drainage and run-off losses
- △ Maximum application rate 210g metaldehyde a.s/ha* For additional protection of water, suppliers/BASIS advisors may recommend rates reduced to 160g a.s/ha or less*
- △ Maximum total dose from 1st August to 31st December: 210g metaldehyde a.s/ha* For additional protection of water, suppliers/BASIS advisors may recommend rates reduced to 160g a.s/ha or less*
- △ Maximum total dose rate: 700g metaldehyde a.s/ha/calendar year*
- △ No pellets to be applied within six metres of a watercourse
- △ Do not apply when heavy rain is forecast
- △ If drains are flowing do not apply metaldehyde based slug pellets

*from any combination of metaldehyde products. 700g is also the statutory limit. a.s.: active substance (or active ingredient)

Field risk assessments and IPM options should always be employed to judge the pest threat and reduce slug pressure. Also see www.ahdb.org.uk/slugcontrol

"We'd urge all those involved in applications to get their spreaders tested by 26 November 2016, as part of the overall need to abide with best practice stewardship and the SUD." Simon McMunn, Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG)

Your nearest NSTS Spreader Test Centre is:

www.nsts.org.uk / info@nsts.org.uk / 0845 644 8748



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