

# SPRAYER TESTING

The Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) requires that all pesticide application equipment (PAE) is tested on a regular basis.\*



All machines applying plant protection products after 26th November 2020 must be tested by the relevant dates. Timescales of test vary depending on type and size of equipment as detailed below:

## NEW SPRAYERS ARE DUE THE FIRST TEST WITHIN 5 YEARS

### 1 Boom sprayers over 3 metres wide, air blast sprayers, train and aircraft sprayers

- From 26th November 2020 all sprayers over 5 years old must have been tested within the last 3 years
- Sprayers tested before 26th November 2017 are due for re-test within 5 years or before 26th November 2020
- Sprayers tested after 26th November 2017 are due for re-test within 3 years
- Thereafter, all sprayers are due for re-test every 3 years

### 2 Boom sprayers 3 metres and under and other types of PAE to include slug pellet applicators, micro-granular applicators, weed wipers, seed treatment and other specialist application equipment

- First test due before the machine is 5 years old
- Re-test every 6 years

### 3 Knapsack, handheld & pedestrian equipment

- Do not require a formal test but need to be checked
- Make any repairs as necessary
- You should keep a record of the inspection – a knapsack checklist is available from the NSTS website

## Crops and Fresh Produce Assurance Scheme requirements

- Annual testing for sprayers over 3 metres incl. air blast sprayers
- Annual testing of nematicide applicators and fogging machines
- All other equipment to SUD requirements

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



# DECISION TREE



FOR SPRAYERS OVER 5 YEARS OLD, use this decision tree to help work out how often each piece of equipment needs to be tested:

## ● SPRAYER TYPE

TRAILED, MOUNTED, SELF PROPELLED

KNAPSACK  
PEDESTRIAN  
HANDHELD

## ● BOOM WIDTH

OVER 3 METRES

3 METRES AND UNDER  
AND OTHER APPLICATION  
EQUIPMENT\*

## ● TESTED AFTER 26/11/2017

YES

NO

YES

NO

## ● NEXT TEST DUE

WITHIN  
3 YEARS

WITHIN 5 YEARS  
OR BEFORE  
26/11/2020

WITHIN  
6 YEARS

## ● RE-TEST DUE

EVERY  
3 YEARS

EVERY  
3 YEARS

EVERY  
6 YEARS

INSPECTED  
ON A  
REGULAR  
BASIS BY A  
COMPETENT  
PERSON

REPAIR  
ANY FAULTS  
FOUND

KEEP A  
RECORD

USE THE  
NSTS  
CHECKLIST

\*Slug pellet and micro-granular applicators

\*Weed wipers

\*Seed treating equipment (incl. conveyor and roller table)

\*Boat mounted and sub-surface applicators

\*Fogging, misting and smoking equipment

\*Other equipment may fall into this category

**For more information**

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