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Manual for inspection of sprayers in use and PRITEAF, dedicated software for inspection of sprayers: success tools developed for the inspector's training process in Spain

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Summary

Software dedicated to inspection of sprayers in use has been developed with the aim to facilitate the accomplishment of the mandatory requirements from EU Directive for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides, specifically those concerning the use of sprayers in use. The software- PRITEAF- has been developed according to the standards EN 13790 concerning mandatory inspection of sprayers in use and it is ready to be used not only for inspectors among all the EU members but also for training purposes all over the world. The software is ready to be on line –after minor arrangements - with the recently approved new international inspection standards ISO 16122, and its main features are: to facilitate the sprayer's inspection procedure, to manage, storage and transfer all the information to the official bodies in charge of the procedure, and to be used as a support tool to improve the training activities during the process, according the European Directive 2009/128/CE for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

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Introduction

The inspection of sprayers in use in all EU Member States (MS) became mandatory after the official publication in October 2009 of the European Directive 2009/128/CE for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides (European Union, 2009). The establishment of a coordinated program of inspections and training, as proposed by the European Commission, has been widely suggested in previous works (Langenakens and Pieters, 1997; Ozkan, 1999; Gil, 2001). The development and promulgation of the Directive has established a uniform framework for the implementation of compulsory inspection of sprayers used throughout Europe (Gil, 2007).

Material and methods

The development of any inspection software requires the definition of data acquisition protocols to expedite the inspection procedure. For this purpose, it is necessary to identify the main factors affecting the performance of the inspection. These include the major defects impeding the proper functioning of sprayers, problems related to the use of inspection equipment, hardware required for data collection, and the ability to issue the inspection certificate and the inspection report in real time.

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