

ETUI meeting 4/5 March 2013

Abstract – Cabins and filters

The use of pesticides can be associated with risks for humans and the environment. Therefore all possible risks shall be reduced to an acceptable level by technical means to ensure safe working conditions.

For this purpose personal protective equipment (PPE) or cabs are available. For mixing and loading as well as cleaning PPE is still needed. Under health and safety aspects protective cabs are adequate means for spraying pesticides. Cabs might be installed on tractors or self-propelled sprayers. In view of tractors we have noticed that currently no cabs are available on the market which provide adequate protection against hazardous substances (pesticides).

In particular, specific requirements for protective cabs (cab structures and filters) are established since 2009 for the protection of the operator (driver) against hazardous substances by EN 15695-1/-2. These standards define:

- Firstly requirements and test procedures for assessing the protective performance of cabs, as well as a specification of categories of protection:

Category 1: no defined protection

Category 2: protection against dust

Category 3: protection against dust and aerosols

Category 4: protection against dust, aerosols and vapours

- Secondly, gas purification requirements test procedures for filters

Based on this standard the European Commission established in 2010 requirements for tractors in the Directive 2010/52/EU to protect workers against hazardous substances. For spraying of pesticides the cabin must fulfil the requirements of category 4.

In the upcoming ETUI Meeting on 4/5 March 2013 we like to discuss the following questions with you and other participants.

- Availability of cabins Category 4 on the market
 - What are the reasons for the lack of availability?
 - Experiences in different countries
- Revision of EN 15695
 - Experiences with the implementation of the standard
 - Requirements to be revised
- For tractors Cat. 4 Cabs are mandatory for spraying pesticides, for self propelled machines the producer evaluates the cab categories by risk assessment.