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Australian Fertiliser Services Association

 for the  
ACCC

ACCU-SPREAD CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE 23 / 05 / 2002

## RULES

### SECTION 1 – PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 The purpose of this certification scheme is to provide the agricultural industry with an independent and accurate assessment of the evenness of spread of spreading equipment used for spreading dry products.
- 1.2. The certification scheme aims to differentiate spreaders that have been tested and carry the Accu-Spread logo with those that have not. Spreaders carrying the Accu-Spread logo will be identified as machines that have been tested.
- 1.3 This procedure applies to centrifugal, pendulum and other broadcast type spreaders used for spreading dry products. It may require some minor modification to accommodate all types of machines and products. These modifications will be in keeping with the principles of this test procedure.
- 1.4 The “Australian Fertiliser Services Association” (hereafter AFSA) is the owner and commissioning body of the Accu-Spread Trade Mark. The official testing authority will be The University of Melbourne or a suitably qualified sub-contractor appointed by The University.
- 1.5 AFSA or persons authorised by AFSA are the persons who are to approve use of the ACCU-SPREAD certification mark.

### SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Dry product will usually refer to dry fertiliser and soil ameliorants. However, the procedure could be applied to granular pesticides, dry effluent, soil, salt or other dry granular type products.
- 2.2 Bout width is the lateral distance between spreader centre lines for overlapping broadcast applications.
- 2.3 Co-efficient of variation (CV) is a statistical measure of the evenness of spread. The CV is determined by computer simulation using data collected in the tests. The CV is the standard deviation divided by the mean of the deposition. For round and round work patterns it is calculated between successive centre lines and for back and forth work patterns it is determined between the centre lines of the first and third pass.
- 2.4 Effective bout width is the bout width that will produce acceptable evenness of spread. AFSA has set the standard of acceptable evenness of spread as 15% CV for processed fertilizer products and 25% CV for soil ameliorants and

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- 2.4 Effective bout width is the bout width that will produce acceptable evenness of spread. AFSA has set the standard of acceptable evenness of spread as 15% CV for processed fertilizer products and 25% CV for soil ameliorants and

other non-processed products. In effect this means for fertilizer products that the rate varies by less than 15% of the average across 68% of the width.

### SECTION 3 – TEST CONDITIONS

- 3.1 The spreader to be tested should be in good mechanical condition and should be appropriately adjusted for the product and prevailing conditions.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of the owner of the spreader to supply AFSA accredited operators for the test.
- 3.3 The product to be tested is chosen by the owner but it should be representative of the products that are usually used with the spreader.
- 3.4 An assessment of the granular product will be conducted to determine: bulk density, sieve analysis and product name and manufacturer. This information will accompany the test information. The moisture content of soil ameliorants will also be assessed.
- 3.5 It is the responsibility of the owner of the spreader to supply product for testing purposes.
- 3.6 Tests can be conducted in winds of up to 10 km/hr measured 2 metres from the ground. If wind exists, the direction of travel shall be parallel  $\pm 15^\circ$  to the direction of the wind.
- 3.7 The test site will have a slope of less than 2% perpendicular to the direction of travel. The surface should be firm and smooth.

### SECTION 4 – TEST PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Sufficient quantity of product will be loaded into the spreader binds to run the tests and to give “normal” feed onto the distribution mechanism.
- 4.2 Operators will be given the opportunity to ensure their machines are operating correctly before the commencement of the test. Typically used spreader settings and operating speeds should be used for the tests.
- 4.3 Two sets of 50 collection trays will be used to capture the product. Both sets will be laid out in straight lines perpendicular to the direction of travel. The two lines of trays will be at least 20 metres apart. All trays will be spaced at 1 metre intervals, except either side of the centre line where there will be missing trays to allow the wheels of the spreader vehicle to pass over the central tray. The deposit in the missing trays will be estimated by averaging the deposits either side of it. Substitution of the centre trays for another collection device could be done at the discretion of the testing authority.

- 4.4. The collection trays will be 500 x 500 millimetre square and 100 millimetres deep. The trays have 50 millimetre high legs which makes the total height of tray 150 millimetres. Inside the trays will be anti-bounce inserts that help collect granules. The top of the insert is 25 millimetres below the top of the tray.
- 4.5. The spreader will pass over the trays a number of times dependent on the chosen application rate, however, at least 800 kg/ha of material should be deposited. For example, this would mean eight passes are required at a 100 kg/ha rate of four passes at 200 kg/ha.. All passes will be done in the same direction, with the wind.
- 4.6. The spreader should be running at least 20 metres prior to the first collection trays.
- 4.7. The contents of the collection trays will be emptied into containers and weighed and the weights recorded. The scales will be certified or verified as suitable for trade use under the relevant state trade measurement legislation. The scale shall be a Class 2 or 3, non-automatic weighing instrument with a verification scale interval of no more than 0.5 grams.
- 4.8. The recorded weights will be used in a simulation model. The program will determine the co-efficient of variation at various bout widths, using both back and forth and round and round work pattern simulation. The results will be graphed showing the relationship between bout width and CV for both work patterns.
- 4.9. The effective bout width will be determined from the graph as the maximum bout width with a CV of 15% for processed fertilizers and a CV of 25% for soil ameliorants such as lime and gypsum. Two graphs will be produced for each test, being the results of the two lines of trays. The test will be rejected if the two effective bout widths differ by more than three metres for the one test. If so, the test will be repeated.
- 4.10. The Accu-Spread certified bout widths will be stated for both work patterns and they will be the average effective bout widths of the two patterns. The effective bout widths will appear on the Accu-Spread certificates.

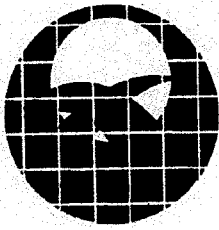
## **SECTION 5 – ADMINISTRATION AND LIABILITY**

- 5.1. The Accu-Spread certificates are associated with individual machines using specified products and rates and it will be an offence under the Trade Marks Act if they should be used to imply otherwise.
- 5.2. The results of the test will expire two years after the date of issue, after which time the certificates must be removed from the spreaders. The spreader should then be submitted for re-testing.

- 5.3 Accu-Spread trademark can be used in advertising provided that it does not contravene section 5.1 and are approved by AFSA.
- 5.4 Accu-Spread testing procedure may be subject to change without notice, however, results obtained with out-dated procedures will remain valid until their expiry date.
- 5.5. Accu-Spread certification can only be obtained through AFSA after successful testing is done by an AFSA approved testing authority.
- 5.6 Four official Accu-Spread documents will be supplied on successful completion of the test:
- a) A sticker than can be applied to the inside window or the spreader vehicle showing the effective bout widths for each product and rate, description of spreader, date of issue and expiry date.
  - b) A large Accu-Spread sticker to be mounted on the outside of the spreader.
  - c) An A4 size certificate suitable for framing, giving the same details as the cabin sticker.
  - d) A laminated A4 size description of the test results, showing distribution patterns and graphs of CV versus bout width for each product tested.
- 5.7 The results of any test are only valid for the particular machine, product, rate, and settings which were tested.
- 5.8 AFSA and the testing authority take responsibility for ensuring that the results displayed on the certificate are an accurate representation of the machine that was as tested at that time.
- 5.9 AFSA and the testing authority take no responsibility for the performance of the spreader after testing.
- 5.10 Accu-Spread stickers can only be applied to the actual test spreader. If stickers are lost, stolen or damaged and a replacement is required then a formal request is required to the National AFSA secretary accompanied with a signed affidavit stating the cause of loss or damage and need for replacement.
- 5.11 Accu-Spread certification will cost AFSA members \$500 per spreader, which will include tests on three products of the owners choice. Owners also specify the rate at which the test is performed. Payment of the fee is made in advance of the test to AFSA.

- 5.12 A certificate will not be issued unless three products are tested, unless suitable reasons for having less than three can be supplied to and is accepted by AFSA.
- 5.13 Tests on more than three products can be arranged at a cost of \$100 extra per product for each spreader tested. Further costs may be incurred if modifications are required and tests need to be re-run, these will be done at a time convenient to the testing authority and at a cost of approximately \$100 per product or by other mutually acceptable means. These extra costs will be invoiced after the tests are performed and will require payment before the certificates will be issued.
- 5.14 A schedule will be produced to nominate the location and day of testing. A full day should be allocated to the task of testing a spreader. Generally, the testing day will be organised so that all spreaders are tested with each particular product in turn.
- 5.15 AFSA and the testing authority take no responsibility for damage to or caused by spreaders, product or operators during the testing period. All spreaders must be operated safely and in accordance with an AFSA accredited operator.
- 5.16 For the purposes of Workcover and insurance, operators remain employees of the business that owns the spreaders during the test period.
- 5.17 Operators are responsible for the products they have spread. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all operators that have had tests done on their equipment to clean the site. The spread products need to be collected and disposed of in a manner that will minimise adverse environmental impact. Each testing day will conclude with a general site clean-up, where all are required to assist.
- 5.18 It is the responsibility of AFSA to appoint a local member in charge of testing. That appointee is to locate suitable test sites and to make the owner of the site aware of the nature of the tests that will be performed and the likely impact of this operation on the site. It is necessary that permission to use the site is obtained in writing and is submitted to the testing authority before tests begin.
- 5.19 Testing will be subject to the prevailing weather conditions and so times and locations are subject to change. Where possible notification of any changes will be made as soon as practicable but it may be very short notice. AFSA and the testing authority will not be held responsible for any cost incurred because of delays. AFSA will not refund amounts paid in advance but will re-schedule testing programs when and where deemed appropriate.

- 5.20 AFSA will keep a register of all spreader tests. AFSA is at liberty to disclose test results as deemed appropriate with due regard to the possible sensitive commercial nature of the information.
- 5.21 The testing authority and or their representative has total command over the running of the test procedures. All persons are obliged to cooperate with the testing authority and abide by his or her decisions.
- 5.22 In the case where operators do not abide by the procedures outlined above the testing authority and the AFSA in charge of testing nominee has the right to withhold Certificates and deny access to testing services.
- 5.23 Operators can lodge a written complaint to the AFSA's National secretary to appeal against any decisions made.
- 5.24 The Accu-Spread application form nominating the spreader, products and rates to be tested and accepting the above conditions must be completed and signed and forwarded to the National secretary before testing proceeds.
- 5.25 AFSA will appoint three representatives to resolve disputes concerning the use of the Trademark and certification process. If a complaint involves one of the representatives then that representative will stand down and AFSA will appoint a replacement, for the hearing of that particular case. Complaints should be directed in writing to the AFSA secretary, who will forward them to the appropriate representatives. Acknowledgment of receipt of the complaint will be made by the secretary within seven days. Each complaint will be acted upon as deemed appropriate by the representatives within at least two weeks of receiving the complaint. A record of all complaints and the measures made to mediate them will be kept and reported to the AFSA membership at the Annual General Meeting.



# AGRI-Technologies

2 Natimuk Rd, Horsham, Vic, 3400, Australia  
ph 03 53811935 fx 03 53810400  
mb 0419 232602  
email lucyalic@comcirc.com.au  
Inter.Ph 613 53811935 Fx 613 53810400

## Fax

**To:** Gary Hones

**From:** Brendan Williams

**Fax:** 02 62431211

**Pages:** 1

**Date:** 07-04-00

**CC:**

**Re:** Australian Fertiliser Services Association – Certification Trade Mark 738374

● **Comments:** I refer to your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> of July requesting the following information.

- a) Estimated number of firms that will be using the CTM – there are approximately 250 AFSA members that can use this CTM.
- b) Details of the independent appeals mechanism. An addendum to the rules will read:  
“Appeals will be heard by an independent person or body who has no role or function in administering the rules and agreed to by the parties in dispute.”
- c) An example of the CTM is being sent to you. There are three parts; a small registration sticker that is attached to the windscreen of the vehicle, a large sticker that can be attached to the outside of the spreader advertising the fact that the spreader has been certified and a certificate that can be hung in an office. Distribution of all forms of the CTM is strictly controlled, only one is issued per machine. Firms can advertise that they have accredited vehicles but they are not to imply vehicles that have not been accredited are accredited.
- d) Details of the register to be kept of authorised CTM users. AFSA and The University of Melbourne keep the register of the results of the tests and the vehicles and firms that have been tested. A registry of the firms and vehicles is also freely available to the public at the University's web site.  
<http://www.longerenong.unimelb.edu.au/accu/accu.htm>
- e) Quantity and market value of the goods covered by the CTM sold annually in Australia and the estimated share of those goods in the Australian market in which those goods compete. I am unsure why this question has been asked because it seems irrelevant. The Trade mark is not used at the point of sale as it is a certification of the correct operation of the spreader, not the correct design. It is not a certificate that is associated with only new equipment, it mainly pertains to the upgrading of existing equipment to meet the specified standard. There is no other organisation involved in the testing of fertiliser spreaders or similar agricultural equipment for certification purposes.

I hope this clarifies the situation and I shall look forward to being granted the CTM.

Regards,