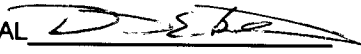


Application Equipment Operation Verification

Chapter 10: FIELD OPERATIONS
AHETF-10.D.O.

Effective Date : October 15, 2003

APPROVAL 	DATE <u>09-27-03</u>
APPROVAL <u>David Johnson</u>	DATE <u>09-26-03</u>
Last Revision Date: N/A	Previous Version Number: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides the steps for the Study Director, or designee, to follow when assessing the operability of application equipment (groundboom, aerial, airblast, handheld, etc.) prior to being used in Agricultural Handlers Exposure Task Force (AHETF) worker exposure studies.
- 1.2 This SOP will cover various commercial application equipment that may be used on AHETF worker exposure studies. Since the AHETF will measure handler exposure (applicator) under expected working conditions using standard industry practices, no modifications or maintenance will be performed by the AHETF to the equipment. In order to maintain an acceptable level of scientific integrity, the AHETF will perform several steps to assess the operational capabilities of the application equipment.

2.0 EQUIPMENT RECORDS REVIEW

- 2.1 The Study Director will obtain copies of pertinent maintenance and calibration records provided by the equipment owner. These copies will be maintained by the AHETF in the appropriate study file.
- 2.2 The Study Director, or designee, will review the equipment records prior to the application. The records should indicate reasonable maintenance has been conducted by the equipment owner/operator, and that the output of the equipment has been checked within the six months prior to the AHETF study.

3.0 VISUAL EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 3.1 The Study Director, or designee, will perform a general visual inspection of the application equipment. Visible signs of damage shall be noted. The overall condition of the equipment will be documented.
- 3.2 The Study Director shall point out any deficiencies or questionable parts of the equipment to the owner/operator. If deemed necessary, the owner/operator shall perform the needed repairs prior to the AHETF application.
- 3.3 All observations and corrective actions (if applicable) will be documented in the study file.

4.0 VERIFICATION OF GENERAL OPERATION

- 4.1 The output of the application equipment will be visually assessed prior to the application. This entails verifying that each nozzle (or other delivery mechanism) is discharging while the equipment is running and at operating pressure. This should be done without the test substance in the tank. Individual output from any nozzle may be collected and measured at the discretion of the Study Director. All observations or measurements made will be documented in the study file.
- 4.2 The overall operation of the equipment shall be verified. Any significant problems that interfere with the application shall be discussed before proceeding with the application. All observations and corrective actions (if necessary) will be documented in the study file.

5.0 APPLICATION EQUIPMENT OUTPUT

- 5.1 If deemed necessary by the Study Director, a complete measurement of each nozzle's output shall be completed, in duplicate, prior to the AHETF application. If the output is dependent upon the equipment's speed, then timed passes will be conducted over a known distance of similar terrain to the treated areas. All results and calculations will be documented in the study file.