

Press release

Businesses to start implementing closed transfer system for plant protection products in 2025

‘Prepare to work with closed transfer system in 2025’

Legal obligation to come into effect on 1 July 2026

Users of plant protection product are advised to prepare their operations for working with a closed transfer system in the coming growing season. That is the message from the stakeholders¹, who are also involved in the Implementation Programme of the Crop Protection Vision 2030. The Implementation Programme includes an agreement to start using the closed transfer system.

With closed transfer systems, exposure risks of the user and environmental impact during filling of spraying equipment are reduced by up to 99%. Users of plant protection products have a strong self-interest in stopping splashing and spilling when filling sprayers. It's important for their own health and for the health of their employees and to prevent that products lose their authorisation as a result of environment effects and pressure on the water system. In recent years, Fedecom, LTO Nederland, Cumela and CropLife NL have tested and demonstrated the device in practice and brought it to the attention of farmers and contractors through publications.

The parties have jointly determined that it is not feasible to make the closed transfer system mandatory as of 1 January 2025. The aim now is to make the closed transfer system mandatory as of 1 July 2026 by amending the Environmental Activities Decree (Environmental Act). The legal obligation will then provide a level playing field for all users.

The parties believe that there is every reason to quickly and widely introduce the closed transfer system for plant protection products in the coming year and a half. There are sufficient suppliers of these systems. The systems have also been extensively tested in practice. In the course of next year, more and more cans will also be available that are equipped with the uniform cap, according to CropLife NL.

Various closed transfer systems available

The obligation to fill spraying equipment with a closed transfer system will apply to liquid plant protection products in packaging of 1 to 20 litres and for field crops. The systems must comply with NEN-ISO 21191:2021 - Equipment for crop protection - Closed transfer systems (CTS) — Performance specification.

Various closed transfer systems are now available on the market. The couplers are available as build-on and stand-alone systems. The easyconnect cap is the standard and all available couplers are suitable for this type of cap. Various cans of plant protection products are now on the market with this specific cap. Machinery companies are ready to mount the closed transfer system on the spraying equipment. A survey shows that the numerous demonstrations and articles about the closed transfer systems have led to a great deal of awareness among farmers and contractors.

Many benefits

There are many advantages of working with a closed transfer system:

1. No splashing, no spilling;
2. Safe working, no exposure of the users when filling the sprayer;
3. Direct rinsing of the packaging;
4. Direct measuring of the dosage;
5. No more seals that fly away and contaminate water;
6. The use of the transfer system can be taken into account when authorising plant protection products.

The collaborating stakeholders see multiple opportunities to switch to the use of closed transfer systems in large numbers in 2025, together with farmers and contractors. If it is this easy to minimize health risks, the purchase of a closed transfer system cannot be an issue, according to the organisations involved.

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