



Notice to Treatment Suppliers

24 June 2011

Several improvements to treatment methodology were discussed at the meeting in December 2010 between PMANZ and MAF to improve fumigation outputs through, in some cases, alignment with the Australian fumigation methodology. Requirements apply equally to fumigations of imports and exports unless otherwise stated. Where fumigation requirements stated within ICPR's or ABTRT are in conflict with requirements stated in this document, the ICPR or ABTRT requirements take precedence.

The key points to note are:

- Fan volume is specified to improve fumigant circulation;
- Fans are required for all fumigants except Phosphine.
- Perforation requirements are specified for gas impervious materials;
- CT sachet's now have expiry dates;
- Treatment technicians must check that over specification fumigations do not adversely affect the commodity and they must keep records of actual treatment specifics;
- A feedback procedure is defined for problems with directions and treatment failures;
- The scanning and emailing of treatment certificates to a centralised address may soon be required;

New improvements to come into effect by 18 July 2011,

Treatment Suppliers have 3 months to update their written procedures.

Fans

Airspace

Positioning of fans must ensure rapid and even distribution of the fumigant throughout the fumigation enclosure.

Free air space must also be sufficient to allow circulation of the fumigant. A gap is required between the top of the product and the enclosure unless the enclosure is a tarpaulin that is exposed to wind. Inter commodity airspace may compensate for space above the product and achieve the required load factor.

The treatment technician must be able to demonstrate that the required concentration of methyl bromide reaches the entire product being fumigated by monitoring concentration from representative points within the enclosure.



Fan Type and Capacity

Fans must have the capacity to make at least one air change every three minutes. The volume of the enclosure must therefore be taken into consideration. Where the capacity of the fan is not stated within the fan manufacturer's specifications the speed will need to be checked with an anemometer and the fans volume calculated. Calibration records for anemometers must be maintained. A fan capacity calculator will be posted on the MAF web site.

Number of Fans

Where multiple containers are fumigated under the same sheets, a fan must be placed in each container, with no more than 8 containers under one cover for full containers and no more than 12 for empty containers.

Tarpaulin covered fumigations exposed to wind or small fumigations (<15m³) do not require fans.

Duration

Fans must run for 20 minutes following the introduction of the gas. Fans must continue to run for the duration of the fumigation if the product is propagative material or the fumigant is hydrogen cyanide. Fans are not required for phosphine fumigations.

Wrapping

Prior to fumigation the treatment technician must inspect the consignment to verify that the target product is not fully enclosed by impervious wrapping, surfaces or coatings that may prevent exposure to the fumigant. Such unperforated impervious barriers must be removed or opened. An alternative is to use monitoring or use of bioassays to prove that the fumigant penetrates the wrapping.

This applies where the infested product is wrapped and is not required where the target pest is definitely not under the wrapping.

Where the content of an enclosure cannot be satisfactorily inspected, the fumigator may choose to rely on a written declaration from the owner or possessor of the product or their nominated representative that accurately describes the product and how it is packaged.

If this cannot be obtained the product must be removed from the enclosure to allow inspection. For imports, a request must be made to a MAF inspector to consider issuing a direction to unload the enclosure.

Polystyrene boxes without adequate perforations or holes must have the lids removed. When methyl bromide is used to treat commodities packed in polystyrene boxes adsorption must be compensated for.

Perforation requirements

Unperforated gas impervious packaging such as plastic wraps, cellophane, film, shrink wrap, aluminum foil and papers that are tarred, waxed, laminated, or waterproofed must be removed or manually perforated on all sides. To meet the perforation requirements for fumigation, impervious materials must contain no less than four perforations of 6 mm diameter/100 cm² or five perforations of 5 mm diameter/100 cm². Plastic wraps containing numerous pinholes (at least 6 holes per cm²), frequently used for transportation of fruit and vegetables are also acceptable.

Sachets



The methyl bromide C/T sachets now have a use by date. Treatment suppliers must not keep sachets that are at or past their expiry date. For short duration fumigations it is advisable to allow the sachet temperature to match the product temperature before the start of the fumigation.

The concentration/ time values of the sachets are being reviewed and it is likely that a greater range of C/T values will be required.

Over Specification Treatment

Treatment specifications are minimum requirements. Any treatment applied that exceeds the specification is at the risk of the treatment supplier and importer or exporter. Where a treatment exceeds the specified rate or time this needs to be recorded by the treatment supplier e.g. a 24hr treatment that is left under fumigation over the weekend. It is the treatment supplier's responsibility to check that the commodity can cope with the extra treatment without being adversely affected, and whether or not it is safe to do so.

Issues with treatments

Where treatment suppliers have doubts over the efficacy of the treatment being applied or have evidence that a correctly applied treatment hasn't worked please contact Ken Glassey. (Ken.Glassey@maf.govt.nz)

Where the treatment technician believes that the incorrect treatment has been directed by MAF, please contact the original inspector or their manager to correct. If further clarification is required contact Ken Glassey and supply him with all relevant details.

Treatment Certificates

Scanning and emailing treatment certificates for import treatments will assist record keeping and trace back of consignments. Please ensure that the BACC number and marks/ numbers used to identify the product are recorded on the certificate.

Certificates will need to be sent to a central email address that will be provided shortly.