



6 September 2017

MPI Notice to Treatment Suppliers – Change to Monitoring during Fumigations

MPI is changing monitoring methods used within the enclosure when applying methyl bromide for official biosecurity treatments. The change to real time monitoring will be required from 1 September 2018, as agreed at the annual meeting with stakeholders (treatment providers, auditors and interested parties) August 2017.

Why are we changing?

While the New Zealand biosecurity treatment framework is to a high standard, fully audited and currently recognised by our trading partners, improvements can always be made and should be on-going. Biosecurity is a global business and New Zealand needs to comply with international best practice¹. Real time monitoring within the enclosure during methyl bromide fumigations has always been an option but normal practice in New Zealand has been to use C:T sachets. Real-time electronic monitoring will be required for all methyl bromide fumigations to improve accuracy of concentration readings and detect non-efficacious fumigations before the end of the fumigation which will help prevent re-fumigations.

Background

The move to real time monitoring has been discussed with the industry since 2005 and letters regarding the change sent to Treatment Suppliers/Importers and Exporters, and other affected organisations in 2009 and 2010. Training in the monitoring method was conducted in 2013 with courses in Christchurch and Auckland. Adoption was put off until negotiations with Australia and other countries to remove the requirement to cover all containers which has been successful.

Next Steps

To provide some certainty to stakeholders and the treatment industry a final date for implementation has been set as 1 September 2018. Companies can start using real time monitoring at any time before this date but need to update their procedures. Please don't leave it to the last minute to change your procedures. Fumigators' clients may be requested to change procedures assist with the different method of monitoring.

It is proposed that prior to the 1 September 2018 further guidance will be given and a one day refresher workshop will be held. One could be held in Auckland and another in Christchurch, if required.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KG'.

Ken Glassey
Senior Adviser
Biosecurity and Environment

¹ Regional Asia Pacific Plant Protection Convention RSPM 10, Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme Methyl Bromide Standard, International Cargo Cooperative Biosecurity Arrangement Methyl Bromide Methodology, International Plant Protection Convention Draft Standard for Fumigation.