



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate Inspection Services

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Dear Exporters, Importers and Freight agents

RE: COMPLIANCE WITH NEW METHYL BROMIDE USAGE PROCEDURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a signatory member to the Montreal Protocol, which is an international treaty seeking to phase out the use of Methyl bromide (Mb) 100% amongst other chemicals that have the potential to deplete the ozone layer.

South Africa embarked on a process of phasing out Mb 100% since 2015 under the leadership of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) in collaboration with the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). Methyl bromide 100% is used for fumigation of building structure containing timber infested by wood destroying insects, under restricted condition of Critical Use Exemption (CUE) and Quarantine and Pre-shipment (QPS) and ISPM NO.15 treatment of agricultural commodities and containers used in international import and export of agricultural goods.

The above categories of use are subjected to annual CUE quota allocation of Mb 100% by the Ozone secretariat based on the country's annual need and available Mb alternatives. It is therefore against the above background that countries are encouraged to minimize the use of ozone depleting substances, including the need to promote accountability, transparency, monitoring and encouragement of best practice fumigation of Mb by all role players.

Since the inception of the methyl bromide 100% phasing out process, the country has experienced unsteady consumption trends under QPS & ISPM No.15 treatment. Therefore; DALRRD under the Directorate; Inspection Services has been mandated to pre-approve all QPS jobs/treatment through a formal and harmonized application process which seeks to both restrict QPS applications to its intended purpose and to benchmark the annual Mb usage need of the country.

QPS defined:

- (a) *Quarantine applications' with respect to Mb are treatment to prevent the introduction, establishment and/ or spread of quarantine pests (including diseases), or to ensure their official control, where;*
- I. Official control is that performed by, or authorised by, a national plant, animal or environmental protection or health authority.*
 - II. Quarantine pests are pests of potential importance to the areas endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.*
- (b) *Pre-shipment applications are those non-quarantine applications applied within 21 days prior to export to meet the official requirements of the importing country or existing official requirements of the exporting country. Official requirements are those, which are performed by, or authorised by, a national plant, animal, environmental, health or stored product authority.*

Examples that may not fall within the QPS exemption:

- Pre-shipment treatments carried out at greater than 21 days prior to export
- Treatments carried out for contractual reasons, not officially required or authorized.

As from 1 February 2022, all exporters and importers wishing to have their commodities fumigated with Mb for QPS purposes should apply with the above directorate, and the criteria for qualification will be based on the above definition.

The following qualification procedure shall apply for all Mb fumigators wishing to use Mb under CUN, QPS and ISPM15 categories:

1. To apply and sign an annual declaration of intent with the distributors of Mb in South Africa.
2. Shall be entitled to maximum of two cylinders per each category of use or two cylinders per PCO per category of use registered under the company being registered with the distributor.
3. Where bulk fumigation work that requires more than two cylinders per category use, or exceed maximum allocation per PCOs, a special permit will be applied for with DALRRD, Directorate: Inspection Services.
4. Each Mb cylinder purchased shall be used solely for the intended category of use as declared with the distributors.

5. Each cylinder under specific category of use shall have a separate reporting template, which shall be handed to the distributor upon purchase of new cylinder.
6. Purchase of new QPS cylinder(s) with Mb distributors shall be subjected to DALRRD, Directorate: Inspection Services approval before the new cylinder is acquired.
7. Purchase of any category use cylinder using an empty cylinder previously used under QPS category will be subjected to DALRRD, Directorate: Inspection Services approval before new cylinder is acquired.

For further enquiries, please contact Ms Petunia Sambo at PetuniaS@dalrrd.gov.za or Mr LePonti Molepo at LePontiM@dalrrd.gov.za.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G. Mediroe

Deputy Director: National Plant and Plant Product Inspection Services (NPPPIIS)

Date: 10 /01/2022