



Summary of minor changes to the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard.

The following minor changes have been made to the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard to clarify and simplify some requirements of the Standard. Below is a description of the changes made.

| Section | Change |
|---|---|
| 3.2 Impervious wrappings, surfaces and coatings | <p>Additional text in the informative section to clarify the options available to the fumigator when assessing the suitability of the consignment for fumigation.</p> <p>Prior to fumigation the fumigator should always inspect the consignment to verify that the target of the fumigation has no impervious wrapping, surfaces or coating that may prevent adequate penetration of methyl bromide. Where the content of the container cannot be satisfactorily inspected the fumigator can rely on a written declaration from someone in the export/import chain who knows the contents and how it is packed.</p> <p>If a written declaration cannot be obtained from an appropriate person then the container needs to be unloaded to allow inspection.</p> |
| 8.1 Monitoring Frequency | <p>The text stating that the first readings must be taken at 30 minutes for 6 hour fumigations and between 30 minutes and 2 hours for longer exposure periods has been removed.</p> <p>The first readings can be taken as soon as the fumigator considers that equilibrium has been achieved.</p> |
| 8.2 Fumigant levels – Start-point and End-point | <p>Table 2 - Monitoring times</p> <p>The information about monitoring times for fumigations less than 6 hours in duration has been removed as they are the same for all fumigation that are less than 48 hours in duration.</p> <p>The requirements for taking the start-point readings has changed to allow readings to be taken as soon as the fumigator thinks equilibrium has been reached. There is no reason to wait any longer than necessary.</p> |
| 8.3 Fumigant concentrations | <p>Text has been added to make it clear that some quarantine treatments may specify higher retention rates of fumigant at the end of the fumigation than what is shown in the Standard. If the retention rate on the treatment directive is higher than the Standard then this is what must be achieved for a successful fumigation.</p> <p>This relates mainly to fumigation of perishable commodities with short exposure periods.</p> |
| Appendix 1 - Fumigation of Perishable Commodities | 1.3 deleted and numbering corrected |