

Security measures on methyl bromide for the quarantine and pre-shipment treatment exemption

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Looking the current use situation on methyl bromide of the quarantine and pre-shipment exemption in the several countries, it could seem undeniable that methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use could be applied to regulated use because MB for QPs use is not distinguished from methyl bromide for the regulated use. Moreover, because list of quarantine pests are not prepared in its own way in those countries, methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use could be treated to non-quarantine pests.

Concerning to pre-shipment treatment, methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use should be applied under the conditions that importing country requires officially to treat pest insects within 21 days before shipment. Despite exporting country should use methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use on the basis of official requirement from importing country, there is no gainsaying that exporting countries could treat them for the pest control of the stored products in those countries.

Parties are expected to report production and consumption volume of regulated methyl bromide to UNEP Ozone Secretary every year. Volume of methyl bromide for QPs use should not be included in the reporting volume. However, production and consumption volume for QPs treatment might be possibly included in the volume of regulated methyl bromide use because methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use is not separated clearly from other regulated use. Therefore it is concerned that production and consumption volume of the regulated use could be much bigger than the expected volume.

Methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use should be applied only to QPs treatment mentioned in the Decision VII/5 and should not be applied to other regulated use. Accordingly some guarantee measures should be taken to secure the QPs exemption in each country as much as possible. For example, as a measure, it could be listed such as registration of methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use, indication of QPs exclusive use on the container, secured shipment to the QPs pest control operator from methyl bromide manufacturing industry, enforcement for preventing from diverting methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use by pest control operator, preparation of the list of quarantine pests, preparation of the program for the improvement of quarantine pest identification skill to the quarantine inspectors, establishment of record system on the volume of methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use.

In Japan all those secured measure have been brought into operation effectively and securely. In addition, in order to aim the least use of methyl bromide for effective control to the pest insect under various fumigation conditions, very sophisticated fumigation schedule is prescribed for the quarantine treatment. Fumigation dose is determined with such factor as the air-tightness of the fumigation chamber, absorption of the commodity, temperature of the commodity, air space circulation apparatus in the chamber, duration of fumigation and lording ratio of the commodity in the chamber. Furthermore, plant quarantine office instructs the more technical suggestions to the pest control operator for the reduction of methyl bromide use as follows:

1. Choice of appropriate chamber suitable for the commodity volume
2. Avoiding fumigation of different sort of commodity in view of absorption
3. Avoiding failure of fumigation

At present, I do not think there are some alternatives to methyl bromide which are technically and economically feasible to QPs treatment. For time being, I am sure we have to rely on methyl bromide for QPs treatment. For the sake of that, I think we have to take the secure measures to cover QPs exemption for avoiding diverting methyl bromide for QPs exclusive use to other regulated use.

Furthermore, by taking these measures, we can gain the more precise figures of the volume of methyl bromide for QPs use and more factual figures of the volume of methyl bromide production and consumption which are supposed to be reported to the UNEP Ozone secretary annually.