

28 Oct 2014

To: All Methyl Bromide Licence Holders and Fumigators

Dear Sir/ Mdm

PHASE-OUT OF METHYL BROMIDE FOR NON-QUARANTINE AND PRE-SHIPMENT USES IN SINGAPORE

Dear Sir/Madam,

This circular seeks to inform all Hazardous Substances (HS) licence and permit holders including NEA-licensed fumigators on the phase-out of Methyl Bromide (MeBr) for non-Quarantine and Pre-shipment (non-QPS) uses in Singapore.

2 Singapore is a Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (hereby known as the Montreal Protocol) on 5 Jan 1989. The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the national authority administering the Montreal Protocol. Under Article 2H and Annex E of the Montreal Protocol, **the use of MeBr in Singapore would only be allowed for Quarantine and Pre-shipment (QPS) applications with effect from 1 Jan 2015 onwards¹.**

3 With effect from 1 Jan 2015, the abovementioned restriction in Para 2 would apply to all HS, fumigation licences and permits. All HS, fumigation licence and/or permit holders are reminded to comply with the provisions under the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA) and its Regulations. Failure to do so would constitute an offence and is liable for prosecution by NEA.

¹ The definition of QPS is set out below in accordance with Decision VII/5 of the Montreal Protocol:-

- a) "Quarantine applications", with respect to methyl bromide, are treatments to prevent the introduction, establishment and/or spread of quarantine pests (including diseases), or to ensure their official control, where:
- Official control is that performed by, or authorized by, a national plant, animal or environmental protection or health authority;
 - 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 or authorized by, a national plant, animal, environmental, health or stored product authority.

4 In preparation for the phase-out of MeBr for non-QPS use by 1 Jan 2015, NEA would be making enhancements to the Vector Control Licensing System (VCLS) to facilitate the declaration by NEA licensed fumigators for use of MeBr in QPS applications. Details would be announced to fumigators once the enhancements are made.

5 For further enquiries pertaining to the phase-out of MeBr for non-QPS uses, please contact Ms Tan Hwee Hong (tan_hwee_hong@nea.gov.sg; +65 6708 6136) or Mr S Mohan (s_mohan@nea.gov.sg; +65 6222 6924) for more information.

Yours Faithfully,

FONG PENG KEONG
DIRECTOR
POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT
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Dr PANG FUNG YIN
HEAD
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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

This is a computer-generated letter and requires no signature.