



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment

# Methyl Bromide Methodology Review

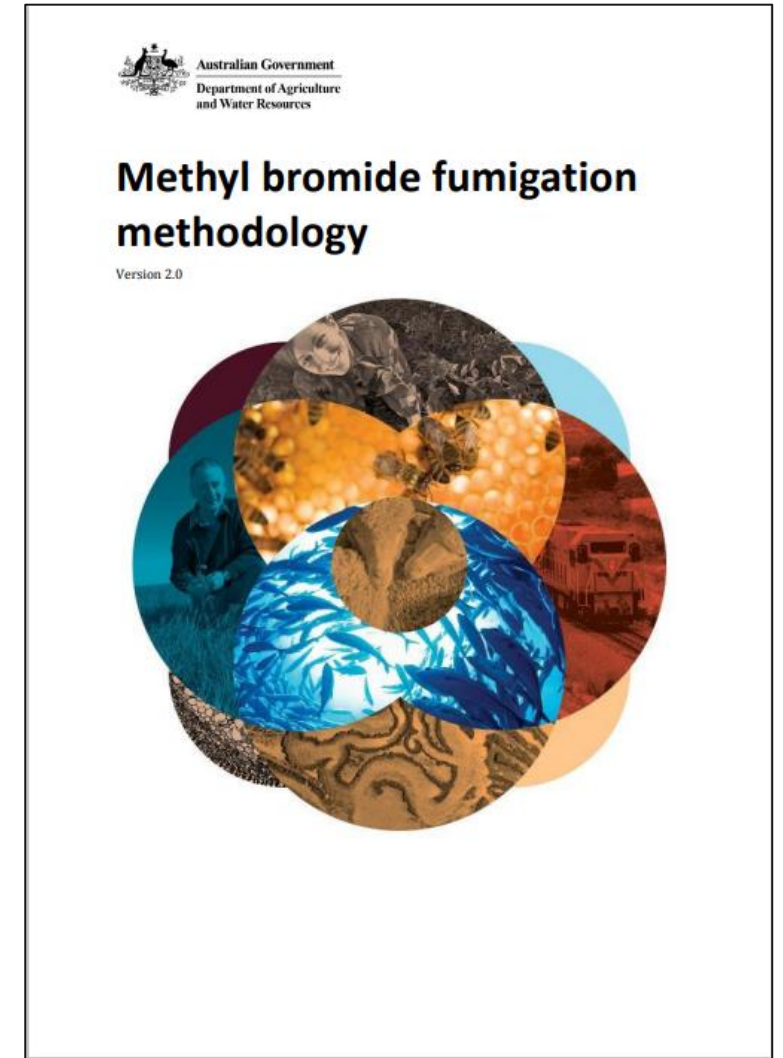
2022 Quarantine Regulators  
Meeting



May 2022

# Context: What is Methyl Bromide Methodology?

- Sets out the minimum requirements for treatment providers performing methyl bromide fumigations on commodities and/or associated packaging suited to such treatments for Quarantine and Pre-shipment (QPS) purposes.
- Basis for compliance auditing of treatment providers to monitor their performance of effective QPS treatments with methyl bromide.
- Applies to commercial and government treatment providers performing QPS methyl bromide fumigation treatments for countries that have adopted a specific methyl bromide treatment schedule.



# Methyl Bromide Methodology Review – Why the Changes?



Changes based on  
past feedback and  
levels of compliance



For enforceability –  
remove ambiguity  
and simplify  
language

Clear articulation of  
requirements and  
how this applies to  
fumigation scenarios

Improve usability by  
providing  
context/removing  
assumed knowledge

# Methyl Bromide Methodology Changes

Old Version	New Version
More words and longer sentences	Shorter, simpler sentences
Ambiguous language and terms	Clear and direct language and terms
Directions based on assumed knowledge	More explanation and context provided

# Methyl Bromide Methodology Review Changes – Example #1

More words and longer sentences → Simple, shorter and clearer sentences

## 2.3 Personal protective equipment (PPE)

2.3.1 Suitable respiratory protection must be worn at all times inside the risk area while it is in force.

2.3.2 Respiratory protection must be worn at all times when inside the buffer zone during ventilation. See [9 Ventilating the enclosure](#).



## 2.3 Personal protective equipment (PPE)

2.3.1 Respiratory protection equipment must be worn at all times when inside the exclusion zone (see section 6.1), including during ventilation (see section 9).

9.2.2 An assessment of the risks must be done to manage the ventilation process so that unprotected personnel in the vicinity are not exposed to unsafe levels of fumigant. The assessment must take into account:



10.2.2 A risk assessment must be done to manage the ventilation process and ensure it is safe by considering:

# Methyl Bromide Methodology Review Changes – Example #2

Ambiguous language/terms → Clear and direct language/terms

2.1.2 **Appropriate** control **measures** must be in place to address the hazards identified.



2.2.1

Before commencing fumigation, a risk assessment must be carried out to ensure **safety measures** are in place to minimise the risk of methyl bromide exposure to:

## How to use this document

**Some of the requirements in this methodology only apply in certain circumstances, generally related to the type of enclosure used or fumigating perishables.** It is important for the fumigators and compliance auditors to understand the purpose of the requirements and the outcomes they are intended to achieve and the particular circumstances in which they apply.

This document should be read in conjunction with the *Guide to performing QPS fumigations with methyl bromide*, which provides information on how to meet these requirements in commonly encountered situations.



## How to use this document

**Treatment providers and compliance auditors must understand the purpose of the requirements of this methodology, the outcomes they are intended to achieve and the particular circumstances in which they apply.**

The *Guide to performing QPS fumigations with methyl bromide* provides background information that may assist in meeting these requirements in commonly encountered situations.

**The technical terms used in this methodology are defined in the glossary at the back of the document. For all terms not defined in the glossary, refer to the definition used by the Macquarie Dictionary.**

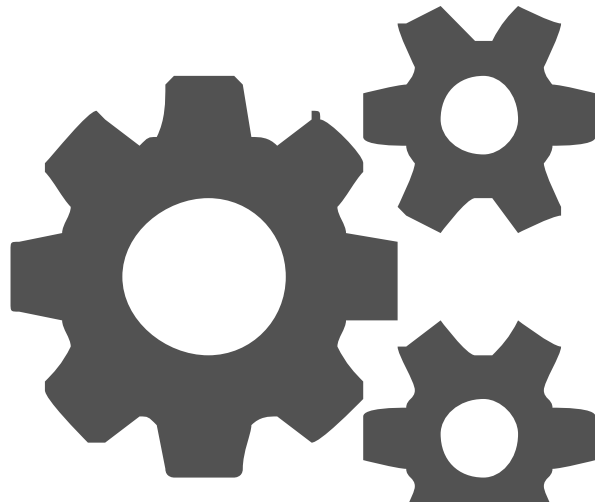


# Methyl Bromide Methodology Review Changes – Example #3

## Enhanced Clarity in Explanations

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- Breaking down information for clearer, more detailed explanations



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# What now?

## Consultation



Internal Part 1:	External Part 2:	External Part 3:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)</li><li>✓ International Cargo Cooperative Biosecurity Arrangement (ICCBA)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) partners</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> ICCBA partners</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Australian State and Territory Regulators</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Australian Industry</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> International Industry</li></ul>



# Next Steps:



1. Collate and Review Feedback



2. Arrange consultation meetings with partners to discuss significant concerns



3. Final consultation

DAWE to coordinate consultation with domestic industry partners

AFAS/ICCBA to coordinate consultation with international industry partners

Questions?

