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भारतसरकार/Government of India

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय/Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

(कृषि एवं सहकारिता विभाग)/(Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)

वनस्पति संरक्षण, संगरोध एवं संग्रह निदेशालय, एनएच4, फरीदाबाद (हरियाणा)

DIRECTORATE OF PLANT PROTECTION, QUARANTINE & STORAGE

N.H.-IV, FARIDABAD (HARYANA) – 121001

Dated : 18.05.2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Agricultural commodities imported through different Ports of Entry into India and fumigation with Methyl bromide (MBr)-clarification regarding

The Officer In-charge of NPQS/RPQS/PQS/PQ Units of CIPMCs may refer the detail provided by them on the reasons for MBr fumigation at port of entry into India on arrival of import consignments of plants and plant products. The information provided by them reveals that MBr fumigation has been done as the same has not been endorsed in the Phytosanitary Certificate. It means that Indian phytosanitary conditions as stipulated in Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 has not been complied by the NPPO of exporting country. This situation is a non-compliance of P.Q. Order, 2003 and has to be dealt according to the provisions available therein.

Montreal Protocol and Use of Methyl bromide (MBr)

C. **Domestic Use** (Complete ban, however, member countries may obtain special permission for limited use with justification)

D. **Critical use, exemption** as per the decision taken in the *Seventh Meeting of the Parties* decided in *Dec. VII/5* for “**Quarantine & Pre-shipment applications**”

DECISION VII/5: DEFINITION OF "QUARANTINE" AND "PRE-SHIPMENT APPLICATIONS"

Decisions VI/11, VII/5 and XI/12 of the Montreal Protocol explain the terms “**quarantine**” and “**pre-shipment**” and how they relate to the **QPS** exemption under the Protocol. In summary:

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- d) **"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:
- iii. Official control is that performed by, or authorized by, a national plant, animal or environmental protection or health authority;
 - iv. 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;
- e) **"Pre-shipment applications"** are those treatments applied directly preceding and in relation to export, to meet the phytosanitary or sanitary requirements of the importing country or existing phytosanitary or sanitary requirements of the exporting country;
- f) In applying these definitions, all countries are urged to refrain from use of methyl bromide and to use non-ozone-depleting technologies wherever possible. Where methyl bromide is used, Parties are urged to minimize emissions and use of methyl bromide through containment and recovery and recycling methodologies to the extent possible.

Definitions of 'Quarantine' under the IPPC (International Plant protection Convention)

"quarantine pest" – a pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled;

"regulated non-quarantine pest" – a non-quarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party;

"regulated pest" – a quarantine pest or a regulated non-quarantine pest;

"official control" – The active enforcement of mandatory phytosanitary regulations and the application of mandatory phytosanitary procedures with the objective of eradication or containment of quarantine pests or for the management of regulated non-quarantine pests;

"phytosanitary measure" (agreed interpretation) - any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests.

It is, therefore, advised that all the concerned P.Q. Stations and other stakeholders should comply with the decision of Montreal Protocol parties for critical use of MBr for the purpose of **“Quarantine & Pre-shipment applications”** as defined under Montreal Protocol and IPPC. It is further clarified that if an imported agricultural consignment without offshore treatment with MBr arrives at port of entry into India but not associated with regulated pests (quarantine pests or regulated non-quarantine pests) does not qualify for MBr fumigation under critical use exemption. However, if such consignments are found to be associated with non-regulated pests, if necessary, may be fumigated/treated with the options other than MBr before unloading or after unloading as the case may be.


(A. K. Sinha)

Plant Protection Adviser

To,
All concerned.

Copy to.

1. Joint Secretary (PP), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
2. Director (PP), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Joint Director (Ent), PQD, DPPQS, Faridabad
4. IT Cell to forward the same to NIC, New Delhi to host on PQIS