**Cargo Fumigation Requirements**

**Foreign Agricultural Service – Notice to the Trade**

**To:** All Implementing Partners, their Freight Forwarders, and all other participating Parties, including commodity vendors and ocean transportation providers.

**Prohibition of Methyl Bromide as a Fumigant in International Food Assistance Programs:**

This notice serves to advise all commodity vendors and ocean carriers that the use of Methyl Bromide as a fumigant for USDA bulk and packaged food aid commodities is prohibited effective immediately.

Methyl Bromide is prohibited for use as a fumigant for all cargoes funded directly or indirectly by USDA throughout the supply chain. The prohibition on the use of Methyl Bromide as a fumigant for food aid cargoes is based on the following:

1. Methyl Bromide is an organic compound (carbon atom present), which tends to bind with other organic compounds like grain and flour, and other dried plant material. This binding results in Methyl Bromide getting “soaked” up by surface organics and it is not able to penetrate deeply into dense organic commodities with high enough concentration to prevent effective protection against full infestation. Therefore, its lack of penetration in dense cargoes like bagged and bulk grains, renders Methyl Bromide ineffective as a fumigant.
2. In 1987, Parties, including the United States, first agreed to the Montreal Protocol to incrementally phase out Methyl Bromide by 2005, as it was determined that Methyl Bromide was a potent Greenhouse Gas and a major contributor to the depletion of the ozone layer. In 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued regulations to phase out Methyl Bromide by January 1, 2005.

**Waiver**

A one-time waiver for usage of Methyl Bromide as a fumigant may be issued by USDA in exceptional circumstances, where:

1. The waiver request is in compliance with USDA/EPA guidelines on the usage of Methyl Bromide.

2. The waiver request is based on a process laid out by the EPA/USDA and as per the Montreal Protocol regarding the usage of Methyl Bromide.

3. No other suitable fumigant is available at the location/country using reasonable process.

**Resources for Additional Fumigation Protocols in coordination with Title II Programs:**

1. Container Fumigation Protocols for Sulfuryl Fluoride
	* <https://procurement.usaid.gov/node/8121>
2. Fumigation Protocols for Bulk Cargo
	* <https://procurement.usaid.gov/node/8123>
3. Fumigation Protocols for Phosphine
	* <https://procurement.usaid.gov/node/8122>

Any questions concerning this Notice should be directed to the USDA’s International Food Assistance Division/Operations Branch at 2-tl@usda.gov.