

## A NEW PHOSPHINE RELEASING GENERATOR FOR PEST CONTROL

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Some phosphides are well known for their chemical reaction with water to produce phosphine, the reactivity with water depends on the phosphides used. The suitability of phosphides for use in pest control was achieved by FREYBERG in the early thirties of this century by formulating the raw product. Apart from many advantages of phosphide products some of their limitations consist in their slow release which can hardly be stopped and interrupted after opening the envelopes.

Since methyl-bromide the most important gas for quarantine and other quick pest control is being endangered due to its presumed significance as ozone depletor there is a desperate search for short term alternatives.

DEGESCH DE CHILE has patented a phosphine generator for use in the field. This apparatus serves to produce phosphine immediately on the spot to pump it directly into the object to be fumigated. Large amounts of gas can quickly be produced with one load of raw material. Reloading is possible. Production can immediately be interrupted. The whole process is electronically regulated and stops if any irregularity or technical problem occurs.

The reaction products in water can comparatively easily be disposed of. Plenty of flour mills, granaries and silos have already successfully been disinfested within a few days. With this type of phosphine fumigation, effective fumigation can be achieved in rather short time due to quick introduction and even distribution of the gas.

A generator will be presented at the conference.