

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF PROFUME* GAS FUMIGANT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO METHYL BROMIDE

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In response to industry requests, Dow AgroSciences has developed ProFume gas fumigant (Sulfuryl fluoride) as an alternative to methyl bromide for the control of stored product insect pests in mills, warehouses, storage structures, transportation vehicles, and many commodities and foods stored within them. Sulfuryl fluoride, marketed as Vikane* Specialty Gas Fumigant, has provided over 40 years of effective control of structural insect pests such as termites and wood boring beetles. In addition, Vikane is registered in several countries around the world for control of quarantine pests in wood products and dunnage. Vikane has been used since 1961 to fumigate more than 1 million buildings, including homes, museums, historical landmarks, rare book collections, and scientific and medical research laboratories. With the declared phase-out of methyl bromide per the Montreal Protocol, Dow AgroSciences began development of this compound for post harvest food commodity and processing uses.

In 2003 ProFume received its first registration in Switzerland for use in wheat flour mills. Throughout 2003 and 2004 commercial fumigations with ProFume have occurred across Switzerland with a high level of customer satisfaction. In January 2004 the US EPA granted a registration for the use of ProFume as a post harvest fumigant in dried fruit and tree nuts and cereal grain storage, milling and processing. Registrations in all but 2 states have been received since that time. The remaining state registrations are expected by the end of 2004. Dow AgroSciences is currently training fumigators on the safe use and stewardship of ProFume gas fumigant. Since the product was launched in April 2004 approximately 40 commercial fumigations have occurred with ProFume at wheat and rice mills across a wide geography within the United States. Within the European Union, country registrations have been obtained in Italy in April 2004 for use in flour mills, pasta factories, pet food and food processing facilities. Registration was obtained in the United Kingdom in May, 2004 for use in flour mills. Commercial launch activities are underway in both Italy and the UK including training with key fumigation companies in each country. Additional EU registrations are anticipated in Germany in early 2005 and France in 2006. Registration efforts are currently underway in both Canada and in Australia. Future opportunities for ProFume are under investigation in Asia, Latin America and in the Middle East.