GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF PROFUME® GAS FUMIGANT

Suresh Prabhakaran, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Indianapolis, IN

ProFume® gas fumigant (99.8% sulfuryl fluoride) is a broad spectrum fumigant manufactured by Dow AgroSciences LLC for the control of rodent, insect and other invertebrate pests. This fumigant was developed in response to post-harvest industry requests as an alternative to methyl bromide. ProFume can be used in non-residential structures, food handling establishments (eg., pet food facilities, bakeries, food production facilities, mills, warehouses, etc.), stationary transportation vehicles (railcars, shipping containers, trucks, etc.), temporary and permanent fumigation chambers, and storage structures. ProFume is relatively non-reactive as a gas and does not cause off-flavors. It's an odorless, colorless inorganic gas, and as such, does not form unpleasant odors. In addition, due to its favorable vapor pressure characteristics, ProFume penetrates commodities better and reaches target pests faster for optimum control.

ProFume received its first global registration in Switzerland for use in wheat flour mills in 2003. Several commercial fumigations were completed since that date with ProFume across Switzerland with a high level of customer satisfaction. In January 2004, the US EPA granted a registration for ProFume as a post harvest fumigant for use in dried fruits and tree nuts and cereal grain storage, milling and processing. Additional ProFume registration was granted in July 2005 that included expanded food tolerances and use pattern. Within the European Union, ProFume registration has been granted in Italy for use in flour mills, pasta factories and food processing facilities. ProFume is also registered in United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium. Commercial launch in all the European countries and in the United States have been successful. Over 100 commercial fumigations have been completed with high level of customer satisfaction and many customers opting for ProFume for subsequent fumigations. Registrations in France, Canada, and Australia are anticipated soon. Registration activities for Asia, Latin America and the Middle East are underway. Development and commercial launch success in many countries prove that ProFume is technically and economically viable alternative to Methyl Bromide. Above all, it is not an ozone depleting substance.