

MBAO Conference Orlando 2008

QPS & Residual Gas Extraction Systems

SUMMARY

Due to the rise in container traffic around the world, in particular between developing and developed countries. This has brought an increased use of Methyl Bromide, in particular in respect of ISPM15. With this increase in global trade quarantine risks have become higher, with border integrity becoming even more important.

As we all know, methyl bromide is an ozone depleting gas and is listed by the Montreal Protocol for complete phase out. However, the implementation of replacement treatments can take years, therefore there is a need to manage treatment by methyl bromide in the interim.

Let us review some of the alternatives:

Sulfuryl Fluoride – Expensive and now deemed to be a potential greenhouse gas. Has a problem with eggs.

Vapormate – A mixture of ethyl formate and carbon dioxide. Due to the high CO₂ content this is a potential greenhouse gas. Has a problem with eggs.

Heat treatment – Expensive and has restricted use.

Cold treatment – This requires a long exposure time. Not suitable for quarantine.

Whatever alternative/alternatives we finally settle on, they will be toxic. We also do not have any idea what long term effect they may have on the environment. Therefore, we should consider recapture of all fumigant gases to ensure a safer and healthier environment for the world's flora and fauna.

Ken Brash

2nd September 2008.