

## AFAS: METHYL BROMIDE AND BEYOND

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The Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) is a training, accreditation and registration system, managed by overseas government agencies through individual bilateral arrangements with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

AFAS has been fully implemented in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, with implementation in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea by the end of 2008 and in the People's Republic of China in 2009. AQIS is working with a number of other countries to implement AFAS.

There has been a significant improvement in methyl bromide fumigation effectiveness since AFAS implementation, demonstrated by the decrease in failed fumigation treatments reaching Australia.

Effective fumigation has the added benefit of reducing the use of methyl bromide. It is estimated that AFAS countries (India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) have collectively reduced methyl bromide usage by 153,000 kg from 2004 to 2008.

Currently, AFAS only applies to methyl bromide fumigations. However, there is scope for other alternative quarantine treatments to be included as part of AFAS.

AQIS is also exploring the implementation of a single, multilateral arrangement between all participating AFAS countries.