

Gordh--The National Plant Protection Organization for the United States is the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). Through the Plant Protection Act of 2000, Congress charged APHIS PPQ to regulate and facilitate the movement of any commodity that could contain plant pests whilst continuing to protect the agricultural and natural resources of the United States. Currently, methyl bromide is critical to achieve this mission. In 2010, nearly seven hundred thousand pounds of methyl bromide were used in PPQ-supervised QPS fumigations. While PPQ supervises all fumigations for imported goods, the majority of US export fumigations are supervised at a state, county, or local level. For the past few years, Chilean grapes and Peruvian asparagus account for the majority of methyl bromide use for PPQ-supervised import fumigations. Both of these treatments are condition of entry fumigations. Other high-use commodities, such as Italian tile and cut flowers from Colombia and the Netherlands, are fumigated only when a quarantine pest is found. To reduce these usages, APHIS PPQ is examining several methyl bromide alternatives, including alternative fumigants, heat and cold treatments, irradiation, and systems approaches.