

Registering EDN in New Zealand – determining data needs

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EDN (active ingredient –Ethanedinitrile, C₂N₂) is a broad-spectrum fumigant that the Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction (STIMBR) identified in 2014 as the only potential replacement for methyl bromide for the fumigation of logs exported from New Zealand. Since 2014 STIMBR has worked with Draslovka, the manufacturer of EDN, to produce a comprehensive package of information for use in the registration of EDN with the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority (NZ EPA) and Worksafe New Zealand (the organisation responsible for the appropriate mitigation of work place risks).

There are significant challenges in bringing a new fumigant to market. Regulators have a desire for certainty and for proof of every detail. The manufacturer of a new fumigant must balance the cost of producing an absolute data set that will ensure regulators questions are satisfied against the resources and time required to provide the data. Critically the manufacturer needs to ensure that sufficient information is provided to prevent regulators approving the fumigant with excessive risk mitigation requirements that could render the product unusable.

To collate the information required to register EDN Draslovka and STIMBR have brought together data from the following areas:

- 1) Chemistry.
- 2) Research undertaken on EDN and associated chemicals.
- 3) Detailed analysis of the steps involved in the proposed fumigation process and the environment in which fumigation will take place
- 4) Specific trials to measure EDN levels in lab and commercial scale trials to bridge the gap between theory and practise. Including the latest results from wood fumigation research in the Czech Republic (supported by the TH02030329 grant.
- 5) Concerns that local communities may have about the use of EDN in their area.

The work undertaken since 2014 culminated in the submission of an application to the NZ EPA in July, 2017.

An EPA analysis of EDN has been completed and a hearing been held by the EPA's independent decision making committee concluded in August. Draslovka is now awaiting a decision.