

## POTENTIAL THREAT TO CONVENTIONAL FUMIGATION FROM REGULATORY MATTERS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Zlatko KORUNIC

*Medovičeva 12. 41000 Zagreb, CROATIA*

The Council of the European Communities has adopted the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market ( 91 / 414 / EEC). The Directive must be implemented by member states by 15th July 1993. The main aims of the Directive are to harmonize agrochemical registration within EEC, establish common standards of health and safety and permit free circulation of products. The Directive also tries to avoid duplication of effort and to eliminate unnecessary animal experiments by encouraging cooperation in pesticide evaluations. There are 5 Annexes of the Directive. The principles for evaluating pesticides will be established in a separate directive.

The Directive requires that all older active ingredients be re-evaluated within approximately 12 years. Authorization of a plant protection product requires a dossier with much more information than was previously required. Health and safety standards are now much stricter and many plant protection products or active ingredients will be suspended or limited in future use. Fumigation with toxic gases like phosphine, methyl bromide and hydrogen cyanide is in Europe a common and efficient way to control stored product pests. There are no current alternatives for toxic fumigants. Under limited circumstances modified atmospheres are substituted for the fumigants. The Directive states that regulations in members states will soon impact the use of fumigants. Therefore, great care must be taken to ensure that fumigants are used wisely and carefully. Regulations on stored product protection will be adopted through Resolutions of Council of Europe, Annexes, etc., mainly on safety and fumigant dose rate reductions. These concerns and harm to workers and the environment can be avoided if gases are applied strictly according to written recommendations using modern techniques of sealing, pressure testing, leak detection and filtering. The EEC registration Directive will

greatly influence the search for modified and safer uses of conventional fumigants. The basic aim of the Directive is to protect human health and the environment.