

THE CURRENT STATUS OF METHYL BROMIDE AND PHOSPHINE FUMIGATION IN POLAND

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Insects and mites are common pests of stored products in Poland. They not only cause economic loss of agricultural commodities in storage but through quarantine, their presence restricts the export of grains, dried fruits, mushrooms, vegetables and other products. These losses and restrictions are eased by the application of fumigation treatments. Now, only two fumigants are registered in Poland: methyl bromide and phosphine. Methyl bromide (METABROM 98; METHYL BROMIDE) is used widely as a fumigant for soils, commodities and structures. However, methyl bromide is an effective ozone-depleter, and will be banned in Poland at some future date. Phosphine will continue to play a major role in the fumigation of agricultural commodities, and Poland is becoming increasingly dependent on this fumigant for stored product pest control. The following products releasing phosphine are now registered in Poland: PHOSTOXIN (tablets), QUICKPHOS (pellets), DELICIA-BEUTEL (bags), DELICIA-GASTOXIN (tablets), and DEGESCH PLATES or STRIPS. In order that only phosphine will remain available as a fumigant, it is essential that any risk, such as pest resistance to phosphine, that could lead to its removal be identified and eliminated. Therefore, a research program have been undertaken to detect and monitor phosphine resistance in Poland. The information obtained will be used to predict the future impact of resistance on storage industries, as well as to develop tactics and strategies aimed at managing or delaying the development of resistance.