

CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE AND OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR CURRENT USES OF METHYL BROMIDE IN THE NETHERLANDS

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Current uses of methyl bromide in The Netherlands are restricted to quarantine applications and fumigation of durables and structures since, in 1992 soil sterilisation was banned. In accordance with the Montreal Protocol, the policy of the Dutch government aims at further reductions in the years to come. A baseline for an effective reduction scheme is the availability of reliable use figures. Since 1992 fumigations with methyl bromide are subject to notification at a central registry. From this database the use pattern of methyl bromide can be determined. The presentation will discuss developments in this pattern over a couple of years.

A major guideline for use reduction is the availability of effective alternatives for current uses of methyl bromide. Research is focused on identifying suitable alternatives for the Dutch situation. Controlled atmosphere seems to be a promising alternative for products like cocoa-beans and groundnuts. Heat treatment appears to be applicable for disinfesting flour-mills.

Control of methyl bromide emissions is attempted by using charcoal filters at the permanent fumigation facility at the flower auction in Aalsmeer. Chemical analyses have shown a very high removal efficiency.