

EPA Update: Status of Soil Fumigant Regulatory Activities

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Overview

- Soil Fumigant RED Amendments
- Implementation Timeline
- Other Activities
- New Registration Activities

Soil Fumigant REDs: Overview

- Re-licensing decisions for chemicals used as soil fumigants
 - Methyl Bromide
 - Chloropicrin
 - Metam Sodium/Metam Potassium
 - Dazomet
- First comprehensive reevaluation since products first registered
- 1,3-Dichloropropene completed reregistration in 1998

Soil Fumigant REDs: Reregistration Process

- Lengthy Public Participation Process
- Public comment periods on risk and benefit assessments, risk reduction proposals, and RED document
- Revisions incorporate stakeholder input on risks, benefits, risk reduction options, and implementation aspects of final decisions

Public Participation Process

Six Phases:

1. EPA develops draft risk assessments and provides to USDA and registrants for “error correction” (2004-2005)
2. EPA Reviews comments, revises assessments (2005-2006)
3. Public comment on risk assessments (2005)
4. EPA Reviews public comments, revises risk assessments, develops benefit assessments (2006-2007)
5. Public comment on revised risk and benefits assessments and risk management proposals (2007)
6. EPA Develops and issues decisions (2007-2008)

For fumigants, EPA also took public comment on the decisions (2008) and issued amended decisions (2009)

Project Background

Why review as a group?

- Use similar assessment tools and methods for each
- Compare risks and benefits of each in light of the others
- Make informed risk management decisions – address risks of concern and maintain key benefits of use

Mitigation Summary

Package of measures that work to:

- Reduce potential for direct exposure to toxic concentrations
- Reduce likelihood of accidents and errors
- Foster planning and compliance
- Assure appropriate response to exposures that occur
- Provide flexibility to reduce impacts on fumigant users



Implementation Schedule

Risk Mitigation Measure	Currently	2010	2011
Restricted Use (MeBr and chloropicrin only)			
Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)			
Rate reductions and use site limitations			
New handler protections			
Tarp cutting and removal restrictions			
Extended worker reentry restrictions			
Training information for workers			
Fumigant management plans			
First responder and community outreach			
Applicator training			
Buffers around sensitive sites			
Buffer zones around all occupied sites			
Buffer credits for optional GAPs			
Buffer posting			
Buffer overlap prohibitions			
Emergency preparedness measures			

Implementation Process

- 2010 Growing Season – Label changes appear in field with mitigation measures except buffer zones and related measures
 - e.g., RUP, Reentry restrictions, handler protections
- 2011 Growing Season – Label changes appear in field with ALL mitigation measures
 - e.g., buffer zones, buffer posting, emergency preparedness measures

Implementation Activities

- Develop educational and outreach materials and resources
- Organize and participate in meetings and workshops
 - train-the-trainer focus for regulatory partners and outreach experts and groups
 - how to comply focus for fumigant users and groups
- Provide templates and tools to facilitate compliance

Other Activities

- EPA testing of tarp permeability
 - Potential basis for development of performance based credits (in lieu credits for specific tarp names) with a standard tarp testing protocol
- EPA collaboration with States to develop training materials and manuals
- FMP template development

Next Steps

Fall 2009 – Registrants submit revised labels to the Agency incorporating first group of mitigation measures

Winter 2009 – EPA reviews, approves labels for 2010 growing season; implementation outreach underway

Early 2010 – Products with revised labels available

Fall 2010 – Registrants submit revised labels to the Agency incorporating all mitigation measures

Early 2011 – Products with revised labels implementing all measures, including those related to buffer zones, available

2013 – All soil fumigants begin re-evaluation process under Registration Review

Iodomethane

- In addition to existing buffer zones and restricted use status on current iodomethane labels, the 2010 mitigation measures required by the soil fumigant REDs will be added to labels
- EPA participated in the Public CA meeting to review CA DPR risk assessment
 - Panel report expected in January 2010

New Registrations: Actions Pending

- Dimethyl Disulfide (DMDS)
 - Pending Section 3 registration for use on vegetables, cucurbits, strawberry, blueberry, onion, field grown ornamentals, and forest nursery crops
- Furfural
 - Pending outdoor use registration revised to sod farms and golf course tees and greens only
- Sulfuryl Fluoride
 - Pending EUP for soil use



EPA Soil Fumigant Contacts

- General Contact:
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- Chemical Review Managers:
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Come to our sessions!

- Tuesday 4:30 – 4:50 PM
 - Meta-analysis of Methyl Bromide and Alternatives for Pest Control in Strawberry and Tomato
- Wednesday 9:20 – 9:40 AM
 - Tarp Permeability Testing at EPA
- Wednesday 10:30 AM – noon
 - EPA Determination of Factors which Impact Structural Fumigation Emissions
- Wednesday 3:30 – 4:15 PM
 - EPA's Risk Mitigation Requirements for Soil Fumigants
- Wednesday 4:15 – 5:00 PM
 - Determination of Soil Fumigation Emission Reduction Factors