



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

Stop 3630
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Reference # 226

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Robert Lijewski, Acting Director /s/ *Robert Lijewski*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Fumigating Slack Holds and Slack Tanks of Vessels

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum establishes the policy for determining the fumigant application method when holds and tanks of vessels are loaded in a slack condition.

2. BACKGROUND

On August 24, 2009, PPMAB published the revised Fumigation Handbook. Some of the changes included; eliminating the probe and tubing (without blower motor) as fumigant application methods; establishing a mandatory minimum fumigant dosage rate for the remaining application methods (i.e., surface, subsurface/trench-in, and the recirculation); and basing the fumigant application method on the vessel's cargo hold depth, rather than the depth of the commodity or grain as required by the previous edition of the handbook. Consequently, these specific changes have made it difficult for certified fumigant applicators to fumigate slack holds and slack tanks according to official procedures. Therefore, we have established the following policy to ensure that slack holds and tanks are fumigated properly and that the efficacy and integrity of the official fumigation process is maintained.

3. POLICY

The following policy will be applied when fumigating slack holds and slack tanks under FGIS In-Transit Fumigation procedures.

- a. When the grain or commodity is less than or equal to 12 meters in depth, the surface application may be used with the mandatory minimum dosage rate of 45 grams of metal phosphide per 1,000 cu. ft.

- b. When the grain or commodity is greater than 12 meters in depth, the application method (e.g. subsurface, recirculation) as specified in the Fumigation Handbook, Chapter 2, Attachment 4, must be used.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this memo with the Fumigation Handbook until the handbook is revised to include this change. Field office managers must ensure that a copy of this memorandum is provided to official agencies operating within their circuit.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this policy to Robert Dorman, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch, at (202) 720-0276 or email at Robert.J.Dorman@usda.gov.