

DIRECTION & MINUTE OF THE DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEE

Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (“HSNO Act”)

Application APP203660: modified reassessment of methyl bromide

Direction & Minute WGT022 of the Decision-making Committee (DMC) – 21 August 2020

Background

1. Between 11 and 17 August 2020, the hearing for the modified reassessment of methyl bromide was held, in which the DMC heard from the applicant, EPA, submitters, and the associated witnesses nominated by those parties.
2. On 17 August 2020, the DMC adjourned the hearing to consider all of the evidence before it including the information provided at the hearing.
3. The DMC considers that there are aspects regarding the dispersion of methyl bromide through the air that it would like additional information on to inform its deliberations.

Summary of information requested by the DMC

4. On 17 August 2020 the DMC requested a summary of air dispersion modelling information currently held by the EPA in response to discussion points which were raised in the hearing, namely the proposals for
 - a. an achievable recapture rate to be set 30% recapture efficiency
 - b. a request for buffer zones, in particular those regarding ship hold fumigations, to be set, which align with lower application rates required for shipments to India
 - c. buffer zones to align for smaller volumes of methyl bromide are used in smaller applications
5. They requested that the buffer zone information provided be sourced from modelling at the 99.9th percentile.
6. the EPA provided this information to the DMC on Wednesday 19 August, and is published alongside this direction and minute

Directions

7. The DMC directs the following.
 - a. The EPA provide the information it currently holds in relation to buffer zones based on air dispersion modelling as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5.
8. The DMC will continue to issue Directions and Minutes as necessary to advise parties to the process of further communications or procedural matters.

For the Decision-making Committee:



21 August 2020

Tipene Wilson
Chairperson

Date