

From: WAI-POI, Daniel (ENV) <Daniel.Wai-Poi@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Monday, 19 August 2019 11:12 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Information request regarding methyl bromide

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, please find the info below, all of which can be released publicly.

Q: Which countries (if any) require exports from New Zealand be treated with methyl bromide prior to export to that country? Please can you include information relating to these requirements, if possible by country, which sectors and products are affected by these requirements (whether current and or dependant on future export restriction zones that (would) require additional requirements to be met before produce within it would be eligible for export), what those requirements entail, the volume of each product treated, and the value of each treated product (in both NZD and percentage of the total export value of that product).

A: The Ministry for Primary Industries leads New Zealand's engagement on issues relating to the use of methyl bromide as a fumigant. We suggest that you contact them for more information.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade did meet with the Board of the India Trade Alliance in June 2018 to discuss a range of issues. During this meeting, board members expressed concerns about the impact of any phasing out of methyl bromide on trade, especially log exports, if a substitute fumigation product, such as EDN, was not approved in a timely manner and accepted by overseas jurisdictions. Officials met again with the India Trade Alliance in May 2019 and they reiterated their concerns around the need to find an acceptable alternative to methyl bromide given New Zealand's high volume of log exports to India.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade could task its posts to seek further information on these points from their host governments. The speed with which this work could be undertaken would depend on other priorities in each of our posts and the speed with which the host government provides information.

Q: Is New Zealand in negotiations with any trade partners to introduce, increase, or decrease the use of methyl bromide required prior to exports to those countries? What is the current status of discussions (if any) with trade partners involving the use of methyl bromide for export or biosecurity purposes?

A: The Ministry for Primary Industries leads New Zealand's engagement on issues relating to the use of methyl bromide as a fumigant. We suggest that you contact them for more information.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided limited ad hoc funding in the past through a contestable trade fund to support research and visits by foreign officials on issues related to methyl bromide and fumigation.

Q: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have any other information it considers pertinent regarding the use of methyl bromide and recapture technologies in New Zealand which may facilitate the evaluation and consideration of this application?

A: New Zealand is a Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, a highly successful multilateral agreement that regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made ozone depleting substances, including methyl bromide. There is an exemption under the Protocol that allows the use of methyl bromide for biosecurity and phytosanitary reasons. We understand that because of the growing exports of logs to China and India, there has been a corresponding increase in the use of methyl bromide in New Zealand.

Many thanks,

Daniel Wai-Poi  
Senior Policy Officer – Biodiversity, UNEP, UNCCD and Chemicals/Waste  
New Zealand CBD, Cartagena Protocol & ABS National Focal Points  
Environment Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

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