

OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Virchenko and Mr. Kunatenko,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Australia's WTO notification G/SPS/N/AUS/613 and the fumigation requirements for consignments exported from Ukraine to Australia. We appreciate Ukraine's commitment to environmental protection under the Montreal Protocol and are pleased to provide the clarification you have requested.

We acknowledge that the use of methyl bromide (CH_3Br) is prohibited in Ukraine due to its environmental impact. Please be assured that Australia's biosecurity framework is designed to be both robust in protection and flexible in application, with several approved alternatives to methyl bromide that are widely utilized by our trading partners.

In response to your specific inquiries:

Regarding mandatory methyl bromide fumigation: Fumigation with methyl bromide (CH_3Br) is not mandatory for goods exported from Ukraine to Australia, provided that consignments are treated with approved alternative methods that effectively address the identified biosecurity risks. Depending on the commodity being exported to Australia there are generally at least always at least a few acceptable treatment options available.

Agricultural products subject to mandatory fumigation: The requirement for biosecurity treatment varies by specific commodity, country of origin, and associated pest risks. While treatment is mandatory for many agricultural products of plant origin, the specific treatment method may be selected from the range of approved alternatives based on efficacy for the particular commodity and target pests.

Acceptable alternatives to methyl bromide along the BMSB pathway: The majority of Ukrainian exports to Australia comprise seed oils, machinery, and electrical equipment. Given Ukraine's classification as a target risk country for BMSB (Brown Marmorated Stink Bug), these commodities require biosecurity treatment during the BMSB risk season for goods shipped between September 1 and April 30.

The most widely adopted alternative to methyl bromide is sulfuryl fluoride (SO_2F_2) fumigation, which aligns with European environmental standards and is extensively utilized by European and international exporters to satisfy Australia's biosecurity requirements. Heat treatment offers an equally effective, non-chemical alternative that is also widely implemented across Europe for BMSB pathway commodities.

The selection of the most appropriate treatment method may be determined by importers based on the specific characteristics and requirements of their particular commodities.

Pathway for onshore compliance: For situations where approved alternatives may not be suitable for specific commodities or target pests, or where pre-shipment treatments are found non-compliant upon arrival, Australia maintains the option of conducting onshore fumigation with methyl bromide through approved providers. This ensures continuity of trade while maintaining our biosecurity standards.

Determining specific requirements: We strongly recommend that Ukrainian exporters consult Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON) system for each specific plant-

based agricultural product to determine: (a) whether treatment is required, and (b) the complete list of approved treatment options available for that commodity when exported from Ukraine.

We trust this information addresses your concerns and demonstrates the available pathways for Ukrainian exporters to comply with Australia's biosecurity requirements while respecting Ukraine's environmental commitments.

We thank you for your cooperation and remain available should you require any additional clarification

Kind Regards,

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22 April 2025

(25-2757)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Notifying Member: AUSTRALIA If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): All commodities for which methyl bromide (CH ₃ Br) is currently recognized as an effective fumigant for Australian quarantine pre-shipment purposes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agricultural produce (including nursery stock, fresh fruit and vegetables, and grains)• shipping containers• wooden packaging and packing materials• bulk timber and wooden articles.
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5.	Title of the notified document: Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology 3.0. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 40 https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/treatments/treatments-fumigants/methyl-bromide-fumigation-methodology-changes#:~:text=New%20treatment%20certificate%20and%20record%20of%20fumigation%20templates
6.	Description of content: Description of content: The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is replacing the current Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology Version 2.0 with version 3.0 of the Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology (the methodology) on 1 May 2025. The methodology sets out the minimum requirements for treatment providers performing methyl bromide fumigations on commodities and/or associated packaging suited to such treatments for Quarantine and Pre-shipment purposes. Treatment providers treating goods with methyl bromide destined for Australia need to comply with the methodology in accordance with Australian import conditions. The published document has been available since 5 August 2024 on the Methyl bromide fumigation methodology – Prepare now for 2025 update page . The new methodology will come into force on the 1 May 2025. There are changes to the documentation requirements for both the record of fumigation and treatment certificate. New templates are available on the Prepare Now webpage . To ensure a smooth transition to the new requirements, Australia will continue to accept treatment certificates issued under the version 2.0 requirements until 30 June 2025. After

	<p>this date, treatment certificates must comply with the requirements of version 3.0 of Australia's Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology.</p> <p>There will be no changes to phytosanitary certificate requirements as a result of this change.</p>
7.	<p>Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.</p>
8.	<p>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): ISPM no. 43</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
9.	<p>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</p>
10.	<p>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): 1 May 2025</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 14 April 2025</p>
11.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 1 May 2025</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p>Final date for comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 21 June 2025</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Tel: +(61) 2 6272 3933 Email: sps.contact@aff.gov.au Website: http://www.agriculture.gov.au</p>
13.	<p>Text(s) available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Tel: +(61) 2 6272 3933 Email: sps.contact@aff.gov.au Website: http://www.agriculture.gov.au</p>