

(b): In India, uses of Methyl Bromide for soil fumigation, etc. is banned and is only used for quarantine and pre shipment phyto-sanitary treatment of agricultural commodities meant for export.

(c): On an average 4.5 to 5.0 Million ton of pulses are imported into India per year. In order to protect the Indian Agriculture from exotic insect/pests, imported pulses are to be fumigated with Methyl Bromide @ 32gm/cu.mt. for 24 hours in accordance with import conditions specified under Plant Quarantine Order, 2003 issued under Destructive Insect and Pests Act, 1914.

(d): The following alternative treatments are being used in Indian quarantine system as per the international standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

- i) Hot Water Treatment (HWT) & Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT) -& Irradiation - for fresh fruits/vegetables
- ii) Heat Treatment (HT)- for timber and wooden products
- iii) Cold Treatment- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- iv) Phosphine Fumigation- For Dry fruits (Almonds, walnut etc).

(e): Methyl Bromide is highly potent and requires 24 hours duration, whereas phosphine fumigation requires longer duration of minimum 7-15 days, which may affect the import/export trade. Lethal effect of methyl bromide is on wide range of pests including Nematodes, whereas phosphine will not be effective against nematodes and egg stages of insects.
