



July 15, 2021

## Fumigation Documentary Requirements – Imported Goods Australia

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Dear Valued Customer,

The Minimum Documentary and Import Declarations Requirements Policy ( "Policy") sets the requirements for documents submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment ( "Department") for assessment of the biosecurity risk of goods imported into Australia. This includes requirements for certification related to treatments conducted in exporting countries to mitigate potential biosecurity risks prior to shipment.

### What has changed?

As a result of the recently updated Policy version 4.0, documentary requirements for fumigation certificates are changing. The current Policy (version 3.0) differentiates statements required to be made on fumigation certificates with respect to impervious surfaces, wrappings and timber thickness depending on whether the treatment provider issuing the certificate is registered with the Department.

### Current Policy (version 3.0) Requirements

Treatment providers other than those undertaking a treatment under one of the Department's recognised schemes or to address the risk of Khapra beetle are required to make a statement related to plastic wrapping of the goods only.

The current Policy enables one of the following statements to be made:

- 'Plastic wrapping has not been used in this consignment'
- 'This consignment has been fumigated before application of plastic wrapping'
- 'Plastic wrapping used in this consignment conforms to the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme ("AFAS ") wrapping and perforation standard as found in the AFAS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard'.

### Revised Policy (version 4.0) requirements

The revised Policy which comes into effect August 2, 2021, enables a single statement to be used on all methyl bromide and sulfuryl fluoride certificates regardless of the treatment provider.

The revised requirement is:

- A statement confirming that the target of the fumigation conforms to the plastic wrapping, impervious surface and timber thickness requirements at the time of fumigation, as per Appendix 3 of the Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology; or
- A statement confirming that the target of the fumigation conforms to the plastic wrapping, impervious surface and timber thickness requirements at the time of fumigation, as per Appendix 2a of the Sulfuryl Fluoride Fumigation Methodology

## Reason for the change

The primary reason for this change is that the current statements do not address timber thickness and impervious coating considerations that must be taken into account to ensure effective fumigations are conducted.

The new Policy harmonises the requirement between providers and removes opportunity for conflicting statements to be made.

## Action for industry participants

No action is required for goods that are fumigated prior to export to Australia under the AFAS, and to address the risk of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) or the risk of Khapra beetle.

Providers fumigating these goods are already required to make a statement confirming that the target of the fumigation conforms to the plastic wrapping, impervious surface and timber thickness requirements at the time of fumigation, as per Appendix 3 of the Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology.

## All other offshore fumigations

For all other goods that require fumigation prior to shipment and are exported to Australia on or after August 2, 2021, importers and their agents are encouraged to ensure that treatment providers are aware of the new requirement.

Templates that include the required statement are available on our [Methodologies and documents for biosecurity treatments](#) and [Acceptable documentation templates](#) webpages.

## Compliance with the new requirement

For some goods, import conditions stipulated in [BICON](#) mandate treatment within a specific timeframe prior to export of the goods to Australia.

Where the fumigation has been completed and the certificate has been issued within the specified timeframe and before August 2, 2021, the existing plastic wrapping declarations will be considered acceptable.

This includes manufactured wooden articles that are accompanied by a storage declaration. Relevant BICON cases will be updated to clarify this requirement.

All other goods fumigated and exported to Australia after August 2, 2021, that arrive with a fumigation certificate that does not bear the new statement will be subject to inspection or treatment on arrival if amended documentation cannot be obtained.

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your C.H. Robinson commercial representative for further information.

Sincerely,  
C.H. Robinson

*Our information is compiled from a number of sources that to the best of our knowledge are accurate and correct. It is always the intent of our company to present accurate information. C.H. Robinson accepts no liability or responsibility for the information published herein.*

