

Mitigation Measures

Summary

This is a combination of measures that work together to:

- Reduce potential for direct exposure to toxic concentrations
- Reduce likelihood of accidents and errors
- Foster planning and compliance
- Assure appropriate response to exposures that occur

New Mitigation Measures

- Restricted Use Pesticide classification for metam sodium, metam potassium and dazomet
- New mandatory Good Agricultural Practices "GAPs"
- Application rate reductions
- Use site limitations
- Handler respiratory protection
- Tarp perforation and removal restrictions
- Re-entry restrictions
- Training information for workers
- Fumigant Management Plan "FMP"
- First responder outreach
- Applicator training
- Buffer zones
- Restrictions near difficult to evacuate sites
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Four-hour registrant-provided training,
- Information and community outreach programs

Goals of the new regulations

- Protect workers and bystanders while maintaining key benefits of use
- Ensure a level playing field across all soil fumigants
- Make risk management decisions that are protective and reflect real-world situations

Key Points

- Include measures to mitigate risks from fumigant pesticides
- Implement measures through product labels
- Revised labels with new required measures will be on products by Dec. 1, 2010 for the 2011 use season
- Revised labels with additional restrictions to be released late 2011 for the 2012 use season



This brochure is an overview of the new label changes and requirements for soil fumigants. For details, go to:

www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil_fumigants

**Always read
and follow
the pesticide label.**

New EPA Soil Fumigation Regulations

New requirements for pesticides used as soil fumigants including:

- Methyl Bromide
- Chloropicrin
- Metam Sodium
- Metam Potassium
- Dazomet



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New Label Requirements on Agriculture Soil Fumigants

Label Changes for 2011 Use Season

Agricultural Worker Protection

Persons engaged in activities that are part of the fumigation process are considered “handlers”. New restrictions address respiratory protection, tarp handling, and an entry-restricted period.

Handler Training

Registrants must provide training for fumigant handlers (and those under the supervision of a certified applicator).

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

GAPs, such as proper soil temperature, soil moisture, soil prep, sealing techniques, etc. will be mandatory on new labels.

Application Method, Practice, and Rate Restrictions

New labels restrict certain fumigant application methods and practices including certain untarped applications. In addition, the maximum application rate will be lowered.

Restricted Use Pesticide

EPA will reclassify Metam sodium/potassium and Dazomet as RUP by December 1, 2010. An Oregon Pesticide Applicator license will be required to purchase, and/or supervise the use of, any soil fumigant product.

Site Specific Fumigant Management Plans (partial)

New labels will require fumigant users to prepare a written, site-specific fumigant management plan (FMP) before fumigations begin. FMPs need to address only those requirements in effect at the time of the fumigation.

Fumigant Management Plans (FMPs)

To address the risks to bystanders, handlers, and re-entry workers EPA is requiring site-specific FMPs and post application summary reports.

Fumigant users must prepare a written, site-specific plan before fumigation begins. FMP must be available on site to handlers involved in the application, and upon request to enforcement personnel or emergency response personnel in case of emergency.

Major Elements (2011 use season)

- General site and applicator information
- Application information
- Measurements/documentation taken to verify compliance with GAPs
- Worker protection information
- Air monitoring and hazard communication procedures
- Posting (treated area) and record-keeping procedures
- Tarp information
- Soil & weather conditions
- Respirator & PPE for handlers
- Fumigant treated area posting
- Emergency plans and procedures
- Handler training information provided
- Authorized on-site personnel
- Hazard communication plan
- Post-application summary report
- FMP must be kept for two years

More information and sample template:

www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil_fumigants/#fmp

Label Changes for 2012 Use Season

Buffer Zones

A buffer zone provides distance between the application site (i.e., edge of field) and bystanders who live and work near fumigated fields. Buffer zone distances are scenario-based using look-up tables on product labels. Buffer credits for GAPs will reduce buffer size.

Posting Requirements

Labels will require posting at usual point of entry with specific signage and information.

Fumigant Management Plans

In addition to the FMP requirements in effect in 2011, FMPs will need to include additional requirements effective for 2012.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Registrants must provide training to first responders in high fumigant use areas. In addition, applicators must either provide on-site monitoring of the buffer perimeter in nearby residential or occupied areas, or provide emergency response information directly to neighbors.

Four-Hour Applicator Training

New labels will require fumigant registrants to provide four-hour training programs for applicators of soil fumigants.

Community Outreach and Education

New labels will require fumigant registrants to provide community outreach programs on fumigant safety.

Difficult to Evacuate Sites

Specific monitoring and buffer requirements for hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, etc.