

SRI LANKA STANDARD 973 : PART 3 : 1994

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**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR
FUMIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE
PART 3 : METHYL BROMIDE**

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FUMIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
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FOREWORD

This Standard was finalized by the Sectoral Committee on Cereals, Pulses and their products and was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 1994-03-31.

Fumigants are toxic and chemically reactive material. Therefore considerable care is required in handling and application of fumigants to assure the safety of personnel exposed to them. Thus, Part 1 of this standard covers general safety requirements in handling and application of fumigants. Other parts will cover the selection, safety and application techniques of commonly used fumigants.

Methyl bromide is toxic to a wide range of common storage insects at all stages of development. Its ability to penetrate quickly and deeply into sorptive material at atmospheric pressure and to dissipate rapidly makes it an effective fumigant for soil, storage structures and commodities. The fact that many living plants are tolerant to this gas in insecticidal treatments too makes it an useful fumigant for quarantine purposes. But fumigation time and dosage should be kept to a minimum as phytotoxicity has been reported in nursery stock and seed.

Methyl bromide is non flammable and non explosive under ordinary circumstances and may be used without special precautions against fire. But it breaks down quickly into hydrobromic acid in the presence of a flame. The acid is highly corrosive to metals and destructive to plant and plant material. Further, the absence of specific antidotes for methyl bromide poisoning emphasizes the importance of adopting sound fumigation practices.

This standard should be used in conjunction with specific codes of instructions or regulations applicable to fumigation with methyl bromide.

In the preparation of this code, the valuable assistance derived from the following publications is gratefully acknowledged :

IS 7247 : 1974 Indian Standard Code of practice for fumigation of agricultural produce
Part 1 : Methyl bromide

MONRO, H.A.U, Manual of fumigation for insect control, 2nd ed., published by FAO, Rome, 1969.