



Report by the Ozone Secretariat for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

17th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

1. Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, technical advice and assessment on issues related to the use of methyl bromide, a potent ozone-depleting substance, are dealt with by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC), which is one of the Protocol's Technical Options Committees of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The work of the MBTOC has also involved cooperative efforts with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) since a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ozone Secretariat¹ of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on behalf of the Secretariat of the IPPC in 2012.
2. According to the MOU, the purpose of the cooperation agreed between the two treaties is, amongst other things, to:
 - Promote and facilitate collaboration between the Montreal Protocol and the IPPC through joint participation of technical experts in the technical panels and committees of both treaties, such as the MBTOC and the TPPT, to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements; and
 - Exchange information and documentation with a view to maximizing efficiency and effectiveness in advancing the mutual aims of the treaties, minimizing duplication of effort, and facilitating the national level coordination and consultation among relevant stakeholders.
3. The MOU expired at the end of 2017, however, the Ozone and IPPC secretariats have continued their cooperation. The Ozone Secretariat has put forward a request to the IPPC secretariat for a formal extension of the MOU indefinitely until such time any Party to the MOU may decide to terminate it. The cooperation is seen as critical as parties are now focusing their attention on the uses of methyl bromide (MB) and their alternatives for quarantine and pre-shipment treatment.
4. The recent 2022 MBTOC Quadrennial Assessment Report concluded that:
 - Annual consumption of MB for QPS purposes, an exempted use, has remained relatively constant over more than 20 years, at around 10,000 tonnes. Seventeen countries use about 94% of the reported QPS consumption and only 55 of 198 parties have reported use of MB for QPS over the past ten years. Data also shows that in 2021 A5 Parties accounted for 57% of global MB consumption for QPS purposes (5922 tonnes), down from 67% in 2017; non-A5 Party consumption, at 4,479 tonnes was 43%, up from 31% in 2017. The MBTOC reinforces that alternatives are available for most pre-shipment uses and if adopted could result in replacing 30-40% (i.e. 3000-4000 tonnes) of the total QPS MB.
 - Elimination of emissions from QPS use is the single largest short term gain that could be made to further reduction of equivalent effective stratospheric chlorine (EESC) and improvement in the ozone layer. Complete elimination of emissions from QPS use of MB, could result in a further significant (i.e. ~10%) and rapid reduction to the present EESC. This is one of the very few measures available to Parties that would result in this magnitude of rapid reduction. Technical alternatives to both Q and PS purposes are becoming increasing

¹ <https://ozone.unep.org/>.



available, with new chemicals such as ethane dinitrine and hydrogen cyanide showing good efficacy against pests. Emissions can also be managed through use of recapture technologies.

5. In addition to its Quadriennial Assessment Reports, the MBTOC responds regularly to requests by the parties to the Montreal Protocol and has provided advice on issues related to the control of methyl bromide since 1992. Thanks to actions taken by the parties, over 85 per cent of the methyl bromide for all uses (QPS and non QPS) have been phased out globally. As reported by the parties, only 40 tonnes of methyl bromide are currently used for controlled soil and domestic commodity uses only under the Critical Use Exemption. As mentioned above uses for QPS, however, are approx. 10,000 tonnes and are not presently controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

6. In 2023, the parties to the Montreal Protocol adopted decision XXXIV/10 on stocks and quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide. In that decision the MBTOC was requested, in consultation with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, to provide updated information, on current quarantine and pre-shipment uses for which alternatives are available. The report will be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its forty-fifth meeting that will take place in July 2023. The full text of the decision is set out in the annex to the present report.

7. In order to respond to the parties' request in paragraph 4 of decision XXXIV/10 and to ensure consistency of information on alternatives to methyl bromide for QPS treatments, it is important that the IPPC and the MBTOC liaise to provide the requested information. The MBTOC co-chairs kindly request to set up a timetable for discussion of the above issue with appropriate members of the IPPC and TPPT committee at CPM-17.

8. Currently, there are no experts who are both members of the MBTOC and the TPPT. The MBTOC would therefore like to continue to extend an invitation to TPPT qualified technical experts in methyl bromide use for quarantine and related phytosanitary issues to consider participating in the MBTOC through the nomination procedure established under the Montreal Protocol. In this regard, the expertise sought by the MBTOC relates to:

- (a) Alternatives to methyl bromide that can be used in quarantine (and pre-shipment) uses globally (in both developed and developing countries); and
- (b) Regulations involved in maintaining phytosanitary/biosecurity standards between and within countries during international trade.

9. As a reminder of past correspondence, at the Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-2) of the IPPC in 2007, the Ozone Secretariat, pursuant to the request of the parties to the Montreal Protocol to advance the cooperation with IPPC, submitted a paper on cooperation and areas of mutual concern between the two agreements. The parties to the IPPC participating in CPM-2 agreed that the IPPC Secretariat should continue to cooperate and coordinate with the Ozone Secretariat on issues of common concern with a view to identifying and promoting activities that would benefit and enhance the coherence of the two international agreements.² In the areas of issues of common concern, there are several activities that may benefit from collaboration at this time. These are:

- Continued data gathering and sharing on quantities of methyl bromide used for QPS by country and particular application, together with identification of where there are feasible and approved alternatives, with quantity of methyl bromide replaceable, if these are implemented.

² https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publications/en/1179929463410_CPM_2_report_1.pdf



- Identification of those quarantine situations for which methyl bromide fumigation is the only phytosanitary measure specified, and encouragement of development and use of alternatives in these situations.
- In situations where methyl bromide and an alternative are both recommended for a particular quarantine treatment, development of guidance for the non-methyl bromide alternative.
- Specification and promotion of best fumigation practice in quarantine treatments with methyl bromide, with emphasis on more efficient methyl bromide use and minimised emissions, while maintaining phytosanitary effectiveness.
- Encouragement of the use of methyl bromide recovery, recapture and recycling technology, where technically and economically feasible, to reduce emissions of methyl bromide from quarantine treatments without alternatives, until such alternatives are available.
- Promotion of joint participation by experts in technical advisory bodies of the Montreal Protocol and IPPC to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements.
- Continued collaboration between the secretariats and between the technical bodies of the two international agreements to progress mutual aims.



Annex

Decision XXXIV/10: Stocks and quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide

Noting that the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel has pointed out that it is likely that the available information it has on stocks does not accurately show the total stocks of methyl bromide held globally for controlled and exempted uses,

Noting also that the Scientific Assessment Panel will be reporting to the forty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on its quadrennial assessment, which could provide further opportunity to present information on any discrepancies between top-down and bottom-up estimates of methyl bromide emissions,

Noting further that some parties may not be aware of specific alternatives for some quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide,

Noting that parties are required to report statistical data on the production, imports and exports of controlled substances as well as on the annual amount of methyl bromide used for quarantine and pre-shipment applications under paragraph 3 of Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,

1. To invite parties to submit to the Ozone Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, by 1 June 2023, a list of the pest and commodity combinations in which methyl bromide is needed or used in their respective countries;
2. To invite parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, accessible data on the volumes of pre-phase-out methyl bromide stocks at the country level to the Ozone Secretariat by 1 June 2023;
3. To include the issue of methyl bromide stocks in the agenda of the forty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;
4. To request the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and its Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, in consultation with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, to provide updated information, as part of its progress report to the Open-ended Working Group at its forty-fifth meeting, on current quarantine and pre-shipment uses for which alternatives are available;
5. To invite parties to take into account the standards and guidelines under the International Plant Protection Convention in their national processes and to consider the potential for uptake of practices to minimize the use of methyl bromide.