# Methyl bromide fumigation of high-risk plant products: packaging requirements

### Overview

This document applies to methyl bromide fumigations of [high-risk plant products](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/plant/identify/khapra-beetle/plant-products#list-of-highrisk-plant-products) from [khapra beetle target risk countries](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/plant/identify/khapra-beetle/urgent-actions#list-of-khapra-beetle-target-risk-countries) for export to Australia. It details the packaging requirements for these treatments, including examples of compliant and non-compliant scenarios.

### Import conditions and scenarios

Certain types of packaging are impermeable to gas (gas-proof), which can prevent the fumigant from reaching the goods. Impermeable packaging and wrappings that impede methyl bromide distribution or penetration into the target of fumigation must be removed, opened, slashed or made pervious prior to fumigation. To ensure the fumigation is effective, high-risk plant products must be fumigated using one of the options outlined below.

### Option 1: Fumigated in gas permeable packaging

All layers of packaging must be permeable. Permeable packaging is packaging that allows gases to pass through freely. Examples of compliant and non-compliant scenarios under these options are detailed below.

| Scenario  | Compliance status  |
| --- | --- |
| Products are fumigated in gas permeable packaging with no shrink wrapping around them. | Compliant  |
| Products are fumigated in gas permeable packaging but with shrink wrapping around them. | Not compliant  |
| Fumigated in impermeable packaging. | Not compliant  |

Suitable fumigation locations for this option include:

• Products in storage at a supplier’s or producer’s premises

• Products packed into a shipping container.

### Option 2: Fumigated prior to being sealed in impermeable packaging

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Scenario  | Compliance status  |
| Fumigated in bulk (e.g. in a pile, storage bins or hessian bags). The fumigated products are then packed and sealed in new packaging for export. | Compliant  |
| Fumigated in impermeable packaging but left open and unsealed. The fumigated products are then sealed for export. | Compliant  |

Suitable fumigation locations include the supplier’s or producer’s premises.

### Gas permeable packaging examples

The following items are examples of gas permeable packaging:

* **Dry cloth** that is porous enough to allow the fumigant to pass through freely.
* **Woven fabrics** and plastics that are not lined, coated or laminated with impermeable materials.
* **Paper and cardboard** that is not waxed, lined, laminated or painted.
* **Perforated plastics or cellophane** that meet perforation requirements of the [Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/biosecurity/import/general-info/qtfp/aust-methyl-bromide-fumigation.pdf).

### Gas impermeable packaging examples

The following items are examples of gas impermeable packaging:

* **Sealed solid plastic or cellophane bags or pouches** (including those with insufficient perforations).
* **Sealed pouches, tins and cans.**
* Paper, cardboard and woven fabrics **that are waxed, lined, laminated, or painted** with impermeable materials.
* **Sealed glass jars and bottles.**

### Perforation requirements

Perforations are small holes or openings in the packaging that allow gas to pass through. Perforated impermeable packaging must have:

* 4 or more holes of 6 mm diameter; or
* 5 or more holes of 5 mm diameter per 100 mm x 100 mm of surface area; or
* 6 or more pinholes per 10 mm x 10 mm of surface area.

The **wrapping** must be in a **single layer**, so the perforations are not blocked by the wrapping overlapping itself.

### Other requirements

Fumigations must meet:

* [Australia’s import conditions](https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0)
* [Methyl bromide fumigation treatment requirements](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/methyl-bromide-treatment-requirement.pdf)
* [Guide to packaging suitability for performing QPS treatments](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/guide-to-packaging-suitability-performing-qps-treatments.pdf)
* All requirements of the [Methyl Bromide Fumigation Methodology](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/biosecurity/import/general-info/qtfp/aust-methyl-bromide-fumigation.pdf).

In addition to treating the plant products, Full Container Load/Full Container Consolidated (FCL/FCX) containers must also be treated. The container must either be treated:

* Empty
* When packed, only if using methyl bromide fumigation and compliant with all requirements.

The goods must be **exported or sealed** within the container **within 21 days of treatment**. Ensure product security to prevent cross-contamination after fumigation.