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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Seventh Session

Rome, 4 – 8 April 2005

Proposed modification of ISPM No. 15 methyl bromide treatment schedule

Agenda Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

- At its fifth session in 2003, the ICPM was informed by the Republic of Korea of the outcome of an experiment undertaken in conjunction with China to determine the efficacy of methyl bromide (MBr) as a treatment against pine wood nematode. The ICPM "... noted the data on the efficacy of methyl bromide..." and "...referred the data for scientific review by the International Forest Quarantine Research Group..." (paragraph 74 of the report of ICPM-5).
- At the 6th session of the ICPM in 2004, the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group reported that a subcommittee had been formed to evaluate the need for changes in the MBr schedule. The ICPM "...noted that ICPM-5 requested the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group to utilize their expertise to review scientific data on treatments of wood." (paragraph 55 of the report of ICPM-6).
- At the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group meeting in February 2005, research data on MBr efficacy was presented and it was unanimously agreed that the MBr treatment schedule in ISPM No. 15 should be modified to increase the treatment time to 24 hr in order to facilitate penetration of the gas and ensure that adequate concentrations of the fumigant are maintained during the duration of the treatment.
- The following revised MBr treatment schedule is considered to be more effective than the existing schedule by both the IFQRG subcommittee on MBr treatments and the Technical Panel on Forestry Quarantine at their meetings in March 2005:

Air temperature	Dose rate (g/m ³)	Minimum gas concentration (g/m ³) at:			
		2 hr	4 hr	12 hr	24 hr
21°C or above	48	36	31	28	24
16°C or above	56	42	36	32	28
11°C or above	64	48	42	36	32

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