



Pesticides for fumigation with relevance for animal feed

J.P. van Dijk, C. Liu, H. van Egmond, H. Mol, P. Bikker



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This research has been carried out by Wageningen Food Safety Research, institute within the legal entity Wageningen Research Foundation subsidised by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LNV) (project number WOT-02-004-013).

Wageningen, 30 May 2025

WFSR Report 2025.007

Dijk, J.P. van, C. Liu, H. van Egmond, H. Mol, P. Bikker, 2025. *Pesticides for fumigation with relevance for animal feed*. Wageningen, Wageningen Food Safety Research, WFSR Report 2025.007. 36 pp.; 0 fig.; 3 tab.; 246 ref.

Project number: 1227186001

BAPS-code: WOT-02-004-013-WFSR

Project title: Juridische eisen met betrekking tot analyse- en bemonsteringsmethoden gebruikt in het opsporingsonderzoek van diervoeders en diervoedergrondstoffen

Project leader: N.P. Meijer

This report can be downloaded for free at <https://doi.org/10.18174/693568> or at www.wur.eu/food-safety-research (under WFSR publications).

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WFSR report 2025.007

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Summary

Fumigation is the process of pest control using gaseous pesticides in closed areas. Such pesticides are referred to as fumigants. Pesticides such as fumigants or its residues might have an impact on animal feed safety. In the case of fumigants the gas disperses throughout the animal feed, hence the questions:

- Which fumigants are likely to be present in containers used for shipment, or other means of transport or storage, of feed and feed materials?
- Which of these should be prioritised in the light of animal feed safety?

Apart from looking for authorised or approved fumigants in official databases, also a search for relevant fumigants was performed in scientific literature. Presence of a fumigant in either source was considered as an indication of potential use, and as a result, of a potential presence of residues in feed.

A total of 34 active ingredients was found in pesticides used as fumigants. Eleven of those were found in the Ctgb database (the Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products), and 23 in scientific literature using specific search criteria. A shortlist was made of 13 fumigants based on considerations such as presence of an EU maximum residue level (which considers both toxicology and good agricultural practice), feed relevance, information on historical or intended use. This shortlist consists of the following substances: aluminium phosphide, magnesium phosphide, sulfurlyfluoride, hydrogen cyanide, ethylene oxide methylbromide, 1,3-dichloropropene, metam-sodium, 1,2-dichloroethane (ethylene dichloride), carbon tetrachloride, 1,2-dichloropropane (trimethylene dichloride), 1,2-dibromoethane (ethylene dibromide), and chloropicrin. It is recommended to use this shortlist with high priority regarding animal feed safety, and hence for inclusion in monitoring, after method development where needed.



1 Introduction

Recently there have been a number of incidents in harbours, where people have become unwell when opening containers, due to exposure to fumigants that were still present in air in the container. These incidents are primarily a matter for authorities dealing with safe working conditions, rather than the NVWA. However, if fumigants can be present in container air, this might also lead to residues of these fumigants on animal feed shipped in these containers, which makes it a matter of animal feed safety as well. This led to the following questions from the NVWA which are addressed in the report:

- which fumigants are likely to be present in containers used for shipment, or other means of transport or storage, of feed and feed materials?
- which of these should be prioritised for monitoring and control in the light of animal feed safety and/or good agricultural practice?

In 2022, the NVWA has drawn attention to the possible presence of residues of approved disinfectants during the transport and storage of feed materials. The use of products for cleaning and disinfection of equipment for storage and transport of animal feed (silos, vessels, trucks, etc.) can result in residues in the feed. The risk of (too) high residue levels is partly determined by the application of the product, such as the amount used, dosage and distribution. The NVWA did not have adequate insight into the substances used, the practical application of the regulations for these substances, and the possible risks involved. It was therefore requested to determine in this project which agents are permitted for cleaning and disinfecting means of transport, which regulations apply to this application, which agents can result in residues in the feed and which critical factors increase the risk of high residue levels.

Within WFSR and in meetings with NVWA, this subject has been discussed in relation to other projects addressing the use of biocides. Biocides are pesticides that are not included in the category of plant protection products (PPP). Biocides include several main groups, such as for disinfection, preservation and pest control¹. The assumption was that PPPs are mainly used in presence of the feed and thus have a higher chance of presence of residues on the feed, while biocides are mainly used in empty storage or transport facilities. But the use of biocides might also result in residues in the feed, if stored or transported in facilities that have undergone a biocide treatment. Also, from the authorisations of the fumigants investigated in the report it appears that the distinction of application in the presence of absence of feed or food is not that strict.

Some fumigant PPP authorisations allow use in empty spaces (e.g. phosphides and sulfuryl fluoride). On the other hand, biocide authorisations of sulfuryl fluoride products explicitly include the control of insect pests in stored commodities, besides pest control in empty food processing and storage facilities. This shows an overlap in PPP and biocides when it comes to use in presence or absence of commodities. NVWA requested background information for residues of disinfectants, or biocides, in means of transport with initial focus on fumigants.

The first approach to answer this was a study of national and EU authorisations and approvals of these products. Because of the overlap between biocides and PPPs, both categories were reviewed.

NB The terms used in these authorisation need some explanation for better understanding of the results. This concerns the terms authorisation, approval, active substances, and fumigants requires clarification. Active substances of pesticides used as fumigants, liquids or otherwise, are approved or not approved for use in the EU in EU regulations. Following EU approval of the active substance, several different products containing these active substances can be authorised in one or more EU countries. As an example, the active substance aluminium phosphide is approved in the EU under regulation EC 1107/2009 and is present in

¹ Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products.

several products which are authorised in 27 EU countries. In the Netherlands, aluminium phosphide is the active substance in, among others, the product QuickPhos B, authorised as PPP, and in DETIA WM, authorised as biocide. When referring in this report to authorisation(s) of a particular fumigant, this in fact means that authorisation(s) were found for fumigation product(s) either as PPP, biocide, or both, containing this particular approved active substance. Pesticides used as nebuliser, such as formaldehyde, were not considered to be fumigants, and were not included in this report.

The second approach was a search for relevant fumigants in scientific literature. Presence of a fumigant in either source was considered as an indication of potential use, and as a result, of a potential presence of residues in feed. The fumigants derived from both searches and their prioritisation are presented in the results section, while recommendations are presented in the discussion.

2 Material and methods

2.1 Selection of fumigants

The first aim was to provide an overview of fumigants which might be of relevance for animal feed. Fumigants were selected in a stepwise procedure:

1. Fumigants in the Dutch authorisation and approval database of pesticides.
2. Fumigants selected from scientific literature and which are not listed in step 1.

A more detailed description of the steps is provided in the sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

2.1.1 Selection of fumigants in the authorisation and approval databases

The Dutch national competent authority (Ctgb) hosts an online authorisation database². For some fumigants with expired authorisations, information on use is still present in de Ctgb database, while for some older expired authorisations, this information is no longer present. In the latter case, also the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) website³ with information on biocides was consulted, regarding either authorisation or methods of use.

Ctgb provides an online database with all pesticides authorised in the Netherlands and a number of pesticides for which the authorisation is expired. The online database does not provide a search option for all entry fields. However the download version of the database allowed a search within Excel. Relevant terms were looked for in the information for the known fumigants 1-methylcyclopropeen, aluminiumfosfide, koolstofdioxide, magnesiumfosfide, sulfurylfluoride (NB search terms are in Dutch). The most relevant search terms appeared to be "fumi" and "gas". The ECHA database does not provide such a download option, therefore the literature search described in the next section was used to discover fumigants without an EU authorisation or approval that are nonetheless used outside of the EU and that might end up in containers in EU harbours, or in the food or feed commodities shipped in these containers. This was assumed to also cover all fumigants with authorisation in other EU countries, e.g. not listed in Ctgb, which might end up in the Netherlands through containers or bulktrucks, etc. from other Member States.

2.1.2 Selection of fumigants from scientific literature

Apart from looking for authorised or approved fumigants in official databases, a search for relevant fumigants was performed in scientific literature.

A structured review of scientific literature was performed in 2021 and repeated in June 2023 for results published after 2020. Overlapping results from 2021 were removed from the selection. All fumigants from the literature study were checked with the Ctgb and ECHA databases to see if authorisations were missed in the first step. In short, four categories of search terms were combined in a literature search: fumigants, commodities, treatment targets, and location. For each category, a list of search terms was made using e.g. FAO reports, Wikipedia, the EU-MRL database, and a Ctgb permitted fumigant list from the NVWA. The database used for the literature search was Scopus⁴, and the search terms were:

#1: Fumigants

fumigant* OR "gaseous pesticide*" OR "aluminium phosphide" OR "ethylene oxide" OR "2-chloroethanol" OR ethylene OR "carbon dioxide" OR CO2 OR "sodium bicarbonate" OR "magnesium phosphide" OR "sulfuryl fluoride" OR "hydrogen cyanide" OR formaldehyde OR paraformaldehyde OR "L-lactic acid" OR "lactic acid"

² <https://pesticidesdatabase.ctgb.nl/en/authorisations>

³ <https://echa.europa.eu/nl/information-on-chemicals/biocidal-products>

⁴ <https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic&zone=header&origin=#basic>

OR "peracetic acid" OR "1-methylcyclopropene" OR phosphine OR "methyl bromide" OR "1,2-dichloroethane" OR "1,3-dichloropropene" OR "1,2-dibromoethane" OR dazomet OR "methyl isothiocyanate" OR "methyl isocyanate" OR chloropicrin OR DBCP OR dibromochloropropane OR "1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane" OR iodoform OR triiodomethane OR acrylonitrile OR "carbon disulphide" OR "carbon tetrachloride" OR dichlorvos OR DDVP OR "ethylene dibromide" OR "ethylene dichloride" OR "ethyl formate" OR "methyl formate" OR paradichlorobenzene OR "sulphuryl fluoride" OR trichloroethylene OR naphthalene OR malathion OR acetaldehyde OR dichloronitroethane OR "ethylene chlorobromide" OR "methallyl chloride" OR "methylene chloride" OR nicotine OR "propylene dichloride" OR "sulphur dioxide" OR "methyl chloroform"

#2: Commodities

crop* OR seed* OR food OR feed OR cereal* OR grain* OR wheat* OR maize* OR corn* OR flour* OR pasta OR cookie* OR *bean OR *pea OR lentils OR vegetable* OR potato* OR soy* OR meat OR fish OR dairy OR milk OR cheese OR coffee OR chocolate OR cocoa OR sugar OR candy OR sweet OR nut* OR vegetable* OR fruit* OR apple* OR pear* OR *berr* OR *melon* OR oilseed* OR tea OR spice* OR herb* OR chilli* OR pepper* OR pulses

#3: Treatment targets

insect* OR salmonella OR beetle* OR bug* OR butterfly* OR caterpillar* OR worm* OR mite* OR mice OR mouse OR pest*

#4 location

warehouse* OR ship* OR boat* OR vessel* OR container* OR store* OR silo* OR harbor* OR harbour* OR "post-harvest"

A combined search was performed: #1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4 AND KEY (fumigant* OR fumigation) AND NOT TITLE-ABS-KEY ("essential oil") AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")).

Active substances used as fumigants were retrieved from the resulting literature collection as well as relevant information regarding their use. Additional information of use for specific fumigants was retrieved from the 'toxic substances portal' of the American 'Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry' (ATSDR)⁵. Noteworthy is that the MRLs listed there are minimal risk levels and as such inherently different from the maximum residue levels used in this report.

2.2 Prioritization of fumigants

The second aim was to make a first prioritisation regarding potential impact on animal feed safety of these fumigants. Prioritisation might have implications for monitoring by companies involved in the transport, trade and use of animal feed and for authorities, as well as for development of analytical methods, if necessary.

Criteria used for prioritisation are:

- Authorisation status
Fumigants which have or have had an authorisation are more likely to be used in commercial settings than unauthorised fumigants. Fumigants which are still in experimental phase are not prioritized for monitoring.
- Absence of MRL value / GRAS status
Products for which an MRL is not required are likely to be less harmful than products which do require an MRL. Note that products which are not authorized in EU have a default MRL, indicated by an asterisk in EU pesticide database⁶. Also, products which are generally recognized as safe (GRAS) receive lower priority.

⁵ <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/MRLS/mrlslisting.aspx>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/start/screen/mrls>

- Feed relevance

If an active substance is authorized for applications not related to feed (e.g. medical use) and /or the active substance is applied to matrixes which are not used as feed substantially (e.g. apples), it is not considered as feed relevant.

The fumigants that are prioritised are listed in a shortlist, with additional details.

- Analytical method availability at WFSR

Active substances for which WFSR methods are available could easily be included in surveys of animal feed if desired. Expertise is available at WFSR to develop methods if not available yet.

- Toxicological information

ADI (acceptable daily intake, long term intake) and ARfD (Acute Reference Dose, short term intake) are obtained from EU Pesticide Database under the active substances section. If not available there, the LD50 rat is taken from the PPDB⁷ as an indication of oral toxicity.

- Half life

Substances that have a long half-life are likely to persist in feed material and might end up in animal feed put on the market.

The typical half-life in soil (DT50) and aqueous hydrolysis is taken from the PPDB, where available.

- Remarks

In case the active substance of a pesticide is classified according to EU Reg. 1272/2008 with at least one of the terms (Muta. 1A, Muta 1B, Carc. 1A, Carc. 1B, Repr. 1A, Repr. 1B), this is mentioned as different rules apply for notification of MRL exceedances to NVWA. The CRM status of a pesticide is retrieved using the C&L inventory of ECHA database⁸.

⁷ <https://sitem.herts.ac.uk/aeru/ppdb/en/atoz.htm>

⁸ <https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/cl-inventory-database>

3 Results

3.1 Selection of fumigants

A total of 34 active ingredients were found in pesticides used as fumigants. Eleven of those were found in the Ctgb database, and 23 in scientific literature using specific search criteria (see methods).

Tables 1 and Table 2 provide an overview of these products, together with a number of important aspects regarding feed safety, such as the authorisation status in Ctgb or ECHA, and evaluation of feed relevance. Table 1 also lists maximum residue levels (MRLs), as well as the commodities for which a higher than default MRL value applies, as well as some information of authorisation in EU countries if not authorised in the Netherlands. All MRL values and approval information were retrieved from the EU Pesticide Database. The main difference between tables 1 and 2 is either the commercial or the developmental status of the products listed.

3.1.1 Selection of fumigants in the authorisation and approval databases

Products of seven fumigants were found in the Ctgb database with an active authorisation status (Table 1). Four of those have a clear feed application in either biocide or PPP authorisations, as well as an MRL: two phosphides, sulfuryldifluoride, and hydrogen cyanide. For carbon dioxide, no MRL is required for use in the EU as fumigant⁹. 1-Methylcyclopropene has no feed but only food relevance, as its mode of action is to prevent fruit ripening. As for chlorine dioxide (ClO₂), feed relevance is not obvious from the authorisation's information, nor its use as fumigant. In fact, none of the products that contain ClO₂ are used as fumigant, but for liquid cleaning of various hard surfaces instead, including those that may come into contact with food or feed. ClO₂ is also not authorised as PPP in the EU. In scientific literature, ClO₂ is investigated as a fumigant in stored grains in three papers (Xinyi et al., 2017 and 2018, and Buenavista et al., 2023). ClO₂ may therefore be considered to be still in an experimental or developmental stage, rather than being used as fumigant on a commercial level.

Four fumigants were found with expired Ctgb authorizations, all of which have an MRL. Feed relevance is evident from the authorisations of three of them, metam-sodium, 1,3-dichloropropene, and methyl bromide. Interestingly, for ethylene oxide, feed relevance is not obvious from its authorisations, which deal with industrial sterilisation of medical equipment. It is currently being reviewed for use as a biocide by Norway, again with the intended use: 'Industrial sterilisation of single use medical devices, which cannot be sterilised by other means, before these are made available on the market'. However, ethylene oxide is used outside the EU also as a fumigant biocide for spices and herbs^{10,11} used in food, among others. An incident with ethylene oxide occurred in the EU in 2021 with high levels in sesame seeds from India^{12,13}. Metam-sodium is still approved in the EU and authorised as PPP in 12 EU countries, 1,3-dichloropropene and methyl bromide are not approved anymore in the EU, and as such also not authorised in any EU country.

3.1.2 Selection of fumigants from scientific literature

The literature review resulted in 247 publications in which 23 fumigants are mentioned that were not previously found in the Ctgb database. Eight of those 23 have been used, are being used, or are going to be used as fumigants in feed. These were therefore added to Table 1, and listed with 'no', regarding Ctgb authorisation. Six of these 'commercial' fumigants have an MRL. None of these six are approved in the EU.

⁹ Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1435 of 26 August 2022 amending Annexes II and IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for calcium carbonate, carbon dioxide, cyprodinil and potassium hydrogen carbonate in or on certain products

¹⁰ <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/chemicals/Pages/Ethylene-oxide.aspx>

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/regulation-ethylene-oxide-eto-under-federal-insecticide>

¹² https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/rasff_ethylene-oxide-incident_crisis-coord_sum.pdf

¹³ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2021/679077/EPRS_ATA\(2021\)679077_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2021/679077/EPRS_ATA(2021)679077_EN.pdf)

Noteworthy is that one of those is ethyl formate, which has the GRAS (generally regarded as safe) status in the USA. Of the other five, only chloropicrin is still used in the USA, the others are no longer used or even banned as a fumigant in the USA (i.e. 1,2-dichloroethane; carbon tetrachloride; 1,2-dichloropropane; 1,2-dibromoethane). These five fumigants have been widely used and might still be used. They are toxic, and, in one documented case, 1,2-dichloroethane (ethylene dichloride) was detected in containers shipped to the EU (Budnik et al., 2017).

Two of the eight fumigants with documented (intended) use as fumigant in animal feed do not have an MRL. One is ozone, for which there is an EU approval starting in 1-7-2024¹⁴, and for which MRLs have to be considered for products that may lead to residues in food or feed. Noteworthy, no ozone products have an authorisation yet at this time with Ctgb. The other one is sulfur dioxide, for which ECHA authorisation as a fumigant is under review. However, sulfur dioxide is also part of the group of sulfur dioxide-sulfites (E 220-228), which has an EU food additive registration. An EFSA opinion provides levels for acceptable daily intake (ADI) and margin of exposure (MoE). It is therefore included twice in the table, once as fumigant, and once as food additive.

The other 15 are considered to be still in an experimental, or developmental phase (Table 2). Most of the 15 experimental fumigants resulting from the literature search are bio-based. Some are grouped together in Table 2 as they were described as components of the same plant extract. At present, none of them have been approved for use in the EU, so in principle the default MRL value of 0.01 mg/kg applies. One of these fumigants is registered as a food additive in the USA (octenol), although its use as a fumigant is still experimental. Toxicity for humans has not yet been described for these fumigants in the literature, except for the common remark that bio-based fumigants would be generally more safe than chemical ones.

Table 1 Fumigants with documented commercial use -historical or intended-, derived from Ctgb authorisations or literature study, grouped by Ctgb authorisation status.

Active ingredient	Authorisation Ctgb ¹	Information on use from authorisation or literature	feed relevant	MRL range mg/kg	MRLs > LOD apply to:
aluminiumphosphide	BC/ PPP ²	active BC: moles and rabbits, outside PPP: insects, stored edibles PPP: water vole and moles, fruit, vegetables, ornamental, grass and tree horticulture	yes	phosphane generators; 0.01-0.7	tree nuts, herbs and edible flowers, oilseeds, cereals, coffee tea etc., hops, spices
magnesiumphosphide	BC/ PPP	active BC (expired): insects in stored products in contained spaces and in cargo spaces in ships PPP: insecticide/acaricide, stored (non-) edibles, empty storage facilities	yes	phosphane generators; 0.01-0.7	tree nuts, herbs and edible flowers, oilseeds, cereals, coffee tea etc., hops, spices
sulfuryldifluoride	BC/ PPP	active BC: Insecticide/acaricide, stored products, empty storage facilities PPP: insecticide/acaricide, stored (non-) edibles, empty storage facilities	yes	0.01-10	tree nuts
hydrogen cyanide	BC	active BC: Wood-destroying beetles BC: insecticide/acaricide, stored products, empty storage facilities, transport facilities (trains, ships) BC: rodenticide, empty buildings (agriculture)	yes	15, NB, ML ³ range in feed: 10-350	cereals (food); animal feed: feed materials, complete feed
carbondioxide	BC/ PPP	active BC: killing of caught wild geese BC (expired): mice, inside PPP: insecticide/acaricide, stored (non-) edibles, empty storage facilities	yes	not required	
chlorine dioxide	BC	active Ctgb not as fumigant, but as solution, in literature use as fumigant (Beunavista 2023)	no	0.01	default, not approved as PPP in EU

¹⁴ COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1078 of 2 June 2023.

Active ingredient	Authorisation Ctg ^{b1}	Information on use from authorisation or literature	feed relevant	MRL range mg/kg	MRLs > LOD apply to:	
1-methylcyclopropene	PPP	active	PPP: stored edibles, prevent ripening	no	0.01-0.05	only * levels, authorized in 22 EU countries
ethylene oxide (including 2-chloroethanol as residue definition)	BC	expired, ECHA: assessment in progress	BC: industrial sterilisation of single use medical devices, which cannot be sterilised by other means, before these are made available on the market.	yes	0.02-0.1	only LOD (*) levels, not approved as PPP in EU
methyl bromide	BC/PPP	expired	insecticide, rodenticide,	yes	bromide ion: 5-400	fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, pulses, oil seeds and fruits, cereals, coffee, tea etc., hops, spices, sugar plants, not approved as PPP in EU
1,3-dichloropropene	PPP	expired	soil disinfectant in the open ground for the cultivation of potatoes, sugar and fodder beets, onions, flower bulbs, strawberries, vegetables, nursery crops, floristry crops and perennials, as well as for the replanting of orchards	yes	0.01-0.05	only LOD (*) levels, not approved as PPP in EU
metam-sodium (carbathion), is metabolised to methyl isothiocyanate (MITC)	PPP	expired	soil fumigation broad spectrum	yes	methyl isothiocyanate : 0.01-0.5	strawberries, other root and tuber vegetables, fruiting vegetables, leafy brassica, lettuces, spinaches, authorized in 12 EU countries
ozone (generated from oxygen)	BC	no; ECHA: approval starts 1-7-2024	use in (among others) food, feed and drinking water	yes	no MRLs yet	
1,2-dichloroethane (ethylene dichloride)		no	still found in container air, Budnik 2017	yes	0.01-0.02	only LOQ (*) levels, not approved as PPP in EU
carbon tetrachloride		no	fumigant in stored grain, carcinogenic. Historically used with carbon disulfide or ethylene dichloride, Daft 1991 a.o.	yes	0.01	LOQ level, only for cereals, not approved as PPP in EU
1,2-dichloropropane (trimethylene dichloride)		no	carcinogenic, Pandey 2018, Kinochita 2019	maybe	0.01	default, only for cereals, not approved as PPP in EU
1,2-dibromoethane (ethylene dibromide)		no	banned in USA in 1983, Daft et al 1991	yes	0.01-0.02	only LOQ (*) levels, not approved as PPP in EU
chloropicrin		no	soil fumigation broad spectrum, dichloronitromethane is a metabolite, Baggio 2022 a.o.	yes	0.005-0.05	only LOQ (*) levels, not approved as PPP in EU
ethyl formate		no	widely used fumigant for stored feed. Occurs also naturally, GRAS status by USDA, 29 scientific papers	yes	0.01	default, not approved as PPP in EU
sulfur dioxide	BC	no; ECHA: under review	BC: antimicrobial, wine barrels (generated from sulfur by combustion, or released from sodium metabisulfite)	maybe		
sulfur dioxide-sulfites (E 220-228), food additives		no	commonly added tot fruit juices and wine, EFSA opinion on ADI and MoE (acceptable daily intake and margin of exposure) https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7594	no		

¹ Ctg^b authorisation refers to the authorisation status of products containing the active ingredients in the first column.

² BC = biocide; PPP = Plant Protection Product.

³ ML: Maximum content in mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feed with a moisture content of 12% (EC 2002/32).

Table 2 Fumigants in an experimental or developmental phase, derived from literature review. MRLs are not listed as they are not authorised a default MRL.

Active ingredient	information on use from literature	feed relevant
1-octen-3-ol (octenol, mushroom alcohol), food additive in USA	wheat and other stored grains, Cui 2021	yes
methyl benzoate	food safe alternative for phosphine resistant insects, Morrison 2019, Mostafiz 2021	maybe
trans-anethole	(synthetic) product from star anise, Wang 2021 a.o.	yes
rhizome powder of <i>Z. officinales</i>	stored cocoa beans, Akinneye 2022	yes
hexane extracts of certain botanicals, <i>Mentha spicata</i> , <i>Vitex negundo</i>	rice, against rice weevil <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> L., Anandhabhairavi 2022	yes
dihydro-p-coumaric acid	insect pests in stored grain, Devi 2022	yes
nitric oxide	pests in stored grain, Granella 2022, a.o.	yes
estragole	in combination with trans-anethole, less potent, Wang 2021	yes
plant powder fumigants, clove, holy basil, lemongrass, and turmeric powder	<i>Callosobruchus chinensis</i> (L.), stored legumes, Mario 2023	yes
<i>Dennettia tripetala</i> extract	red flour beetle, milled cereal flours, Oyeniyi 2021	yes
cinnamaldehyde	<i>Tribolium castaneum</i> (Herbst) and <i>Sitophilus zeamais</i> Motsch, Huang 1998	maybe
trans-Cinnamaldehyde (TC), benzaldehyde, allyl isothiocyanate (AITC), hexanal	<i>Drosophila suzukii</i> Matsumura, Jabeen, 2021	maybe
diallyl disulfide, citral, eucalyptol, eugenol and menthol	<i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> (weevil), Sahu 2021	yes
methyl salicylate	in combination with ethyl formate, adzuki bean beetle, Chiluwal 2020	yes
volatile constituents from <i>Asari Radix et Rhizoma</i> , δ -3-carene, γ -terpinene, terpinolene, eucarvone, 3,5-dimethoxytoluene, and methyleugenol	potato, <i>Phthorimaea operculella</i> (Zeller), Wu, 2021	maybe

3.2 Prioritisation of fumigants

Following the prioritisation criteria below, a shortlist of 13 fumigants was made (Table 3). Further information was added regarding presence of an analytical method at WFSR, toxicity and half life.

- Authorisation status

Table 2 contains experimental fumigants. It's good to be aware of those, and although technically the default MRL of 0.01 mg/kg applies, there seems to be a limited risk of those being used in an industry setting. They have not been authorised for use in the EU. Also, no literature was found describing industrial use. In fact, few were described in more than one paper, contrary to the literature found for fumigants that *are* used in an industrial setting.

- Absence of MRL value / GRAS status

Table 1 contains two fumigants that do not require an MRL: carbon dioxide (no MRL required) and sulfur dioxide (no MRL likely to be required). Hence, these two substances seem unlikely to hamper feed safety and do not require priority in monitoring.

The same accounts for ozone (for which MRLs are still to be established) and ethyl formate (USA GRAS status).

- Relevance for feed

Table 1 contains also fumigants that are less likely to end up in animal feed. 1-Methylcyclopropene is not used for pest control, but to delay fruit ripening. ClO₂ is used in surface disinfection and its use as fumigant is still in an experimental stage.

Feed relevance is also not obvious from its authorisations for ethylene oxide; however, feed relevance was clear from its illegal use in the EU (@refs to rasff). Illegal use in feed of 1-methylcyclopropene and ClO₂ does not seem likely, given the information above. Therefore, ethylene oxide should receive priority, whereas 1-methylcyclopropene and ClO₂ are of low priority.

Noteworthy is that the EU review report for the active substance sulfuryl fluoride (SANCO/10567/2010 - Rev 1 7 December 2016) defines limits for placing products on the market. Any foodstuff present in the structure or storage or any adjoining structures during fumigation shall not be put on the market as food or feed, as defined in art. 3 of Reg. (EC) 178/2002, unless compliance with Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 is proven.

Table 3 Fumigants prioritised for monitoring for animal feed safety.

Active ingredient	Authorisation Ctg	MRL-range (mg/kg)	WFSR method	Toxicological information (mg kg bw/day)	Half life (Days)	Remarks
aluminium phosphide	active	phosphane and phosphane generators (expressed as phosphane) 0.01*-0.7	no	ADI 0.019 ARfD 0.032	0.21-1	very rapid aqueous hydrolysis Only problems expected in case of non-compliance (e.g. active substance used directly in the product, insufficient aeration). Advised as fumigant (MVO)
magnesium phosphide	active	phosphane and phosphane generators (expressed as phosphane) ; 0.01*-0.7	no	ADI: 0.022 ARfD: 0.038	0.21-1 PPDB 0.24 (soil) very rapid (water)	see above. Advised as fumigant (MVO)
sulfuryl fluoride	active	sulfuryl fluoride 0.01*-10	yes	LD50: 100 mg/kg	- (soil) 0.25 (hydrolysis)	detection does not necessarily imply illegal use of fumigant as bromide occurs naturally in various products. Used as replacement for methylbromide (PPDB)
hydrogen cyanide	active	hydrogen cyanide (cyanides expressed as hydrogen cyanide) 15	yes	-	-	EU 2002/32 provide limits for hydrogen cyanide (50 for feed materials and 100-250 for specific products such as linseed).
ethylene oxide	expired	ethylene oxide (sum of ethylene oxide and 2-chloro-ethanol expressed as ethylene oxide) 0.02*-0.1*	yes	-	-	CRM substance (Carc. 1B, Muta. 1B, Repr. 1B) Relevant for feed as relevant to food. Incorporated in EU Impl. Reg 2019/1793 regarding import controls for food.
methylbromide	expired	bromide ion 5-400	yes	-	-	detection does not necessarily imply illegal use of fumigant as bromide occurs naturally in various products. EFSA opinion on bromide is expected.
1,3-dichloropropene	expired	0.01*-0.05*	no	ADI 0.0125 ARfD 0.2	10.3 (soil) 4 (hydrolysis)	
metam-sodium	expired	Methyl isothiocyanate (resulting from the use of dazomet or metam) 0.01*-0.4	no	ADI: 0.001 ARfD: 0.1	7 (soil) 2.2 (hydrolysis)	methylisothiocyanate is also a metabolite of dazomet.
1,2-dichloroethane (ethylene dichloride)	no	0.01*-0.1*	no	LD50>413 mg/kg	-	CRM substance (Carc. 1B) The default MRL for products of animal origin (terrestrial origin) is 0.1 mg/kg.
carbon tetrachloride	no	0.01*	no	LD50: 2851 mg/kg	5 (soil) Stable (hydrolysis)	
1,2-dichloropropane (trimethylene dichloride)	no	0.01*	no	LD50: 1947 mg/kg	700 (soil) Stable (hydrolysis)	CRM substance (Carc. 1B)
1,2-dibromoethane (ethylene dibromide)	no	0.01*-0.02*	no	LD50: 108 mg/kg	100 (soil) -(hydrolysis)	CRM substance (Carc.1B)
chloropicrin	no	0.005*-0.05*	no	ADI: 0.001 ARfD: 0.001	4.2 (soil) Stable (hydrolysis)	

4 Discussion and recommendations

For this report the Cgtb database was used as a starting point for fumigant selection. This database only contains fumigants that are approved in the Netherlands. Those authorised in other EU Member States have not been assessed. It was assumed those substances are covered by the literature search, and it is likely that this was indeed the case, as the literature search covered all fumigants found in Ctgb, plus several others, for which no authorisations were present in the Ctgb or ECHA databases. Two fumigants were found in literature with an ECHA but without a Ctgb entry. Further exploration of the ECHA database would require a serious time investment with limited, if any, expected gain.

Out of 34 fumigants found, 13 were prioritized for monitoring or method development. To further assess the risk of these fumigants for animal feed safety, both the probability of occurrence and the adverse effect of the active ingredient must be taken into account, which was outside the scope of this report. It's hard to predict their occurrence based on known current use, as this, by definition does not include unknown illegal use. Occurrence might be further explored through monitoring or production data, or any steps in between, if available. Also the adverse effect of these fumigants needs to be assessed for further prioritisation. The EU pesticide database contains information on approved and not approved active substances, including toxicity data, some of which were included in this report. Also the American Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry provides information on toxicity, as well as some history on the use of several compounds, including fumigants.

Further information might result from stakeholder consultation on the provided shortlist, to uncover operator experience that is not available in scientific literature. This might involve stakeholders such as Comite van graanhandelaren (EU level: Coceral), MVO (EU level: EFISC), Nevedi (EU level: FEFAC), GMP+ International, Croplife NL, Koninklijke Binnenvaart.nl. Additionally, responsible parties for operator safety might provide feedback on the provided shortlist based on their signals on illegal or incompliant use of fumigants in practice. This might guide further prioritisation of fumigants for monitoring and/or method development.

Annex 1 Results of literature research

All 246 results from the structured review of scientific literature are listed here first in alphabetical order by author(s) and secondly by publication date.

- Afful, E., A. Cato, M. K. Nayak and T. W. Phillips (2021). "A rapid assay for the detection of resistance to phosphine in the lesser grain borer, *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.) (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae)." *Journal of Stored Products Research* 91.
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Wageningen Food Safety Research
P.O. Box 230
6700 AE Wageningen
The Netherlands
T +31 (0)317 48 02 56
wur.eu/food-safety-research

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Wageningen Food Safety Research
P.O. Box 230
6700 AE Wageningen
The Netherlands
T +31 (0) 317 48 02 56
wur.eu/food-safety-research

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