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DEVELOPMENT OF ACCEPTABLE GUIDELINES FOR THE TESTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW TECHNIQUES AND NEW FUMIGANTS

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The perception of the high level of control achieved by methyl bromide fumigation has made it almost impossible for the emerging technologies to measure up. The standards in place were set up long ago and have rarely been tested in earnest. It is widely understood that if the same set of standards were applied to methyl bromide that are now applied to new fumigants, it would be unlikely to gain registration under the current system. This paper questions the validity of the assumed efficacy of methyl bromide and the perceptions of why such a high standard of fumigation is demanded in reality.

The alternative proposed is to look realistically at the whole picture and develop a more dynamic set of parameters that can be used to assess the performance of the various fumigants and techniques being used.