

GrainCorp – Phosphine Bulletin

June 2010

Phosphine Detections in ex-farm deliveries

The level of Phosphine gas detections in loads being delivered ex on-farm storage to GrainCorp port elevators and country sites has dramatically increased in recent weeks.

The levels detected pose a serious health and safety risk to GrainCorp employees, truck drivers and members of the public. They may also place export markets at risk.

You are responsible for the safe and legal use of Phosphine.

Phosphine should only be used strictly in accordance with the label and MSDS directions.

Used correctly and in accordance with label instructions by growers, grain handlers and transporters, Phosphine is a safe and effective method of controlling pests of stored grain.

Incorrect use of Phosphine is illegal; it can be dangerous and may lead to insect resistance.

Health can be seriously impaired through consistent exposure to Phosphine gas at levels equal to or above 0.3 ppm.

Transporting grain fumigated with Phosphine where the detectable level of gas is equal to or more than 0.3 ppm is illegal. All grain fumigated with Phosphine must be correctly ventilated prior to transportation.

If the level of Phosphine in a load is equal to or above 0.3 ppm, the load may be classified as 'Goods too Dangerous to be Transported', and all parties loading and transporting inappropriately fumigated grain may be fined or prosecuted.

Deliveries to GrainCorp Sites

Where a delivery to a GrainCorp site is detected with a Phosphine gas level equal to or above 0.3 ppm, the load will not be received.

The transporter will be directed to remove the vehicle and load from the GrainCorp property and asked to remain at least 10 metres away from the perimeter of any GrainCorp boundary.

The transporter and grain owner are responsible for the load, safety and any remedial action.

Safety Incident Reports will be completed for any deliveries where Phosphine gas levels are detected at rates equal to or above 0.3 ppm.

A letter will be sent to both the grower and transporter, informing them of the incident. This information may be passed on to relevant Authorities.

Growers or transporters who repeatedly present loads with Phosphine gas residue levels equal to or above 0.3 ppm may be banned from delivering to GrainCorp sites until GrainCorp is satisfied that appropriate remedial measures have been put in place.