

Welcome to NACAA's Fumigation Webinar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plays a role in the regulation of fumigation. Unfortunately, USDA could not participate today, but they provided responses to questions we posed. We share these as foundational information before we discuss this topic.

- What does USDA require during fumigation? We require the fumigator to be certified with the EPA and licensed in the local jurisdictions they operate. We require the fumigators be under a compliance agreement with us that stipulates they must follow all guidelines and procedures in the Treatment Manual in addition to any local Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Are there requirements related to aeration? Yes, those are covered in the Treatment Manual.
- Is the intent efficiency or product safety? For Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) the intent is treatment efficacy, to remove the pest risk for US agriculture. Regarding FIFRA Section 18 commodities, our Officers are present at initiation of aeration and verify final readings.
- Where does USDA authority end and that of air quality agencies begin? We are obligated to follow the EPA label, EPA has extended the authority to monitor the fumigants use to us for quarantine purposes. Ultimate authority lies with the EPA.
- Is the APHIS Treatment Manual ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)) binding on fumigators? Yes, fumigators under USDA compliance agreements are obligated to adhere to the Treatment Manual.
- How often does USDA observe operations? USDA Officers coordinate with fumigators and oversee each treatment.
- What is USDA's process for approving newer (less toxic) fumigation chemicals? We have a Science and Technology Treatment Lab in Miami FL that reviews requests for new treatments.
- Does the FDA also have a role and how does it differ? We do not routinely interact with the FDA. I believe they enforce Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for the EPA, but I do not know any of the details.