# HEAT TREATMENT Perspectives from the Pest Management Industry

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#### **TERMS USED**

- HEAT STERILIZATION
- HEAT FUMIGATION
- BAKE-OUT
- ANY OTHER TERMS?

#### **Sterilization**

Complete destruction of all forms of microbial life, including bacterial spores.

### **Fumigation**

To apply smoke, vapor, or gas to especially for the purpose of disinfecting or destroying pests

Are pest management companies aware of the possibilities of using heat for managing pests?

#### HEAT TREATMENT

- Residential
  - Termites
  - Other Wood Destroyers
  - Roaches

#### HEAT TREATMENT

- Commercial
  - Stored Product Insects
  - Flies

### Other areas of opportunities

- Silo's
- Pallets
- Wooden artifacts and museum pieces
- Stuffed animals
- Mattresses/ Furniture

## Areas where fumigation is not feasible or may be risky....

- Facilities attached to offices, close to schools, etc
- Silo's within a structure
- Organic facilities
- Pieces of sealed equipment where gas will not penetrate (transfer lines?)

## How are pest management companies currently doing heat treatment?

- Some do spot treatments with small heaters
- Some sub-contract to heating companies
- Some act as consultants for the facility (monitoring, fumigating products, spot application of pesticides)

### What kind of information is needed?

- Economics
- Types of buildings that can be heated
- Heat source
- What happens to the product?
- Who picks up the liability?
- What about insurance?

### What kind of information is needed?

- Impact on electrical equipment
- Where are the heat sinks?
- How does heat work in different facilities?

Eg.Dairy, cheese plants, poultry houses, etc

### Are heat treatments safe?

## WHY DO FOOD FACILITIES HIRE PEST MANAGEMENT COMPANIES?

### PEST MANAGEMENT COMPANY

- Specialized, trained full time employees
- Regular, scheduled appointments
- Inventory headaches
- Insurance, Licensing, Certification
- Keeping up with updates
- Responsible for screw ups

### IN-HOUSE PEST MANAGEMENT

- Knows the food business and plant
- Quality assurance
- Knows the inside players
- Can pick out the "nooks and crannies"
- Control over the person

## Why do we need a Pest Management Company for a heat treatment?

- Experience
- Familiarity with the facility being treated.
- Know where the pests are hiding
  - Walls
  - Ceiling
  - Cracks in the floor
  - Expansion joints
  - Product
  - Hollow support columns

### Limitations for the Pest Control Industry

- Knowledge of the Heat treatment process
- Liabilities involved
- Economics of heat

#### Insurance

 Some insurance companies will not continue coverage to a facility when the sprinklers are turned off

### Heat treatment vs Fumigation

- Many variables involved
- Each treatment is a learning process
- Lack of technical support
- Higher levels of heat can damage equipment

- Easier to figure out
- Companies that supply the fumigant provide support
- Higher gas concentrations do not cause any damage

- Will Methyl Bromide actually be phased out?
- What are the alternatives?



### PROFUME IS COMING.....

The Waiting Game!!

# How are pest management companies dealing with the impending phaseout of Methyl Bromide

- Stepping up the IPM program
  - Improved sanitation
  - Rectifiying building design flaws
  - More reliance on IGR's, monitoring programs

#### Research needed...

- Impact of heat on
  - Equipment
  - Commodities
  - Containers
- Different species
- Different life stages
- Heat tolerance

#### Information on...

- Cost analysis (energy, labor, etc)
- How to heat up rooms, walls, parts of equipment?

## The Future in heat treatment for the pest management professional

- Small, highly specialized treatments
- Spot heat treatments
- Role as an advisor/consultant

### **Any Questions?**

