



# Danish Energy Management

*A part of Danish Management Group*

## Memo

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Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2010

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### **Re.: Pesticide Regulations and Controls in Malaysia**

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This memo presents the findings on pesticide control and usage in Malaysia. The information derives from conversation with the Deputy Director in the Pesticides Approval Section in the Department of Agriculture, which are representing the authority in charge approvals for pesticide purchase and usage etc. Another department is in charge of licensing pesticide importers and vendors.

A conversation with a representative for the plant protection unit in the Malaysian Palm Oil Board was also carried out. The Palm Oil Board is an authority under the Ministry of Plantations and in charge of licensing of palm oil estates and mills.

*From conversation with Pn. Fatimah Md. Anwar, Deputy Director, Approval Section, Department of Agriculture:*

1. As per the Pesticides Act 1974, all application forms regarding handling, usage, purchase and storage has been spelled out clearly.
2. Pesticides/vector control can only be used with written approval from Director General of Department of Agriculture and only pesticides that are registered under the Department of Agriculture can be used.
3. Under Malaysian law, it is an offence to sell, offer for sale or exhibit for sale any pesticide, substance, mixture or preparation for the purpose of vector control, unless the seller is registered with the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture.
4. Purchase of pesticide (e.g., monocrotophos) for usage in the palm oil estates has to be substantiated with census carried out by the user.

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5. Purchases of Class 1 pesticides are limited as per requirement. Applications for purchase by the user are subjected to approval by Director General of Department of Agriculture.
6. Paraquat, an herbicide, is still widely used in many industries in Malaysia due to the effectiveness of it in tackling a wider range of weed. Also, paraquat is more economical.
7. Unlike Class I pesticides, paraquat which falls under Class II, can be purchased with no restrictions on the quantity by the user. Nevertheless, in order to be able to store and sell the pesticide, the HTP (highly toxic pesticide) trader has to obtain approval from the Department of Agriculture and the active ingredient content of paraquat has been reduced.
8. Paraquat's usage is still under consideration as the Ministry is considering banning the usage of it.
9. The trunk injection method of monocrotophos and methamidophos (practised by palm oil estates) is the safest and the most economical way of tackling bagworm. Research has been carried out that truck injection method would not transfer the pesticide into the kernel.

*From conversation with Dr. Norman Kamarudin, Plant Protection Unit, Malaysian Palm Oil Board :*

1. Trunk injection method is the safest way to carry out the application of monocrotophos/methamidophos.
2. In order to purchase monocrotophos/methamidophos, census needs to be carried out in the palm oil estate(s).
3. The census needs to show that there are at least 10 large larvae of bagworm per frond in order to apply the trunk injection method.
4. MPOB has always encouraged to plant beneficial plants in order to attract natural predators to curb the spread of bagworm in palm estates.
5. Approximately 2 years ago, a bacterial strain from the bacillus group was found to effectively eradicate the spread of bagworm. This method is being applied by a small number of estates in the state of Perak, as an alternative to the usage of monocrotophos/methamidophos.
6. Paraquat is also being used in certain palm estates as a weed killer, due to its effectiveness on a wider range of herbicide.
7. MPOB has a guideline to promote 'Crop Protection' and 'Usage of Pesticides' in palm estates.