

Fumigation Standard – What’s changed?

The Gafta Standard for Fumigation 2018 is a revision of the GTAS Fumigation manual V6.0 2015.

Certification to the Gafta Standard for Fumigation is a requirement for listing a company on the Gafta Approved Register of Fumigators. Being on the Approved Register enables a fumigation company to carry out its activities under Gafta contract terms where the 132 Rules for Fumigation are incorporated. Important Note: The 132 Rules will become mandatory to all Gafta contracts concluded from 01/09/2019.

General Amendments:

References to pest control have been removed – the Standard deals only with the Fumigation of agricultural products. Requirements for insecticide treatments have been removed.

Clauses have been re-worded to provide further clarity on the responsibility of the Fumigator, the responsibility of the Master/ship’s crew, and how the Fumigator should demonstrate hand over of responsibility to the ship’s Master.

The requirement for a HACCP has been changed to a requirement for a Risk Assessment which includes consideration of food/feed safety issues.

Additional Requirements:

It is a requirement that a Fumigator must perform the degassing/venting activities at discharge. It is further recommended that this should be a Fumigator from the Gafta Approved Register of Fumigators.

Fumigators must be able to demonstrate that they have the appropriate insurance to cover their liabilities.

Records must be kept for Health and Safety Regulations, including PPE, applicable to Fumigators and their employees.

The requirements under Training are more detailed. Training should be regular and updated as required, records of all training must be kept and performance monitoring should be used to identify individual training needs.

Records must be kept of maintenance and calibration, where applicable, of the equipment used by the Fumigator.

When fumigating containers, further clarity and additional requirements are provided for the labelling of fumigated containers and instructions for opening/venting at discharge/final destination.

When fumigating in silo/store more detailed requirements are provided for the preparation, signage and ventilation of the store.

A new section of requirements is included for the degassing/venting of a cargo, which must be carried out by a Fumigator and preferably one from the Gafta Approved Register of Fumigators. The requirement for safe disposal of retrievable residues is included, for which records must be kept.

Audits:

Audits to the Standard will be carried out annually as before and will be carried out by third party certification body NSF International. There must not be more than 14 months between audits.

The initial audit to the Standard, and every 4th audit thereafter will be a physical site visit by an auditor to the premises of the fumigation company.

The 2nd and 3rd audits in most cases will be carried out remotely as a document review via email, telephone and/or video conferencing.

The Fumigator must permit access to the auditor to the premises, information, documentation and facilities required to undertake the audit. The auditor reserves the right to refuse to carry out an audit where they deem conditions are inappropriate, dangerous or unsafe.

Audits will be carried out in English. Fumigation companies must provide, at their cost, appropriate independent interpretation and translation of documents to carry out the audit effectively.