



METHYL BROMIDE TREATED PALLETS

OVERVIEW

Several pallets that have been treated with Methyl Bromide have been found in UK Power Networks depots.

Methyl bromide is a toxic colourless gas. **It is used outside of the EU as a fumigant and pesticide for timber, soil, agriculture and foodstuffs.** The use of Methyl Bromide has been banned in the EU since 2005 but some countries outside the EU still use it and may ship treated materials to the EU. The use of these pallets in the EU/UK is restricted and they should NOT be cut, sanded, re-purposed, upcycled or burned.

Pallets that have been fumigated with methyl bromide are stamped with '**MB**' as shown below.

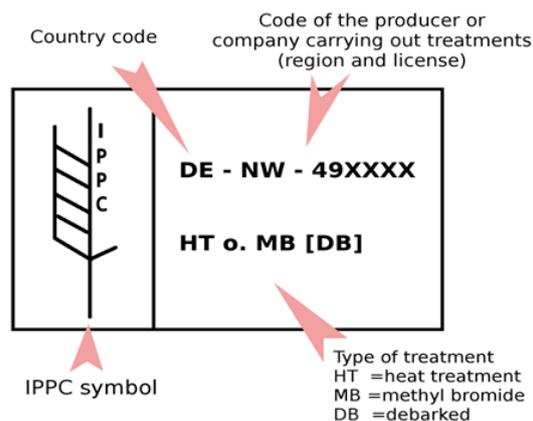
DETAIL

Methyl bromide (MB) is a toxic substance. Because it dissipates rapidly to the atmosphere, it is most dangerous at the fumigation site. Human exposure to high concentrations of methyl bromide can cause central nervous system and respiratory system failures, and can harm the lungs, eyes and skin.

Logistics and the HSS team are currently working to provide a suitable process for disposing of MB treated pallets as hazardous waste.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Before handling any pallets, check for MB markings.
- Use oil resistant gloves if handling MB treated pallets.
- Practise good hygiene and wash hands thoroughly after handling MB treated pallets.
- Quarantine empty MB pallets outside (or in a well-ventilated area) and keep separate from other pallets.
- Any transformers that are on MB pallets should be removed so that the pallet can be quarantined.
- Do NOT place MB pallets in waste wood skips or take to an unofficial recycling centre.



It is the responsibility of line management to ensure all appropriate employees are issued with this document and to check their understanding of its content. This document will be subject to compliance audits within 14 days from the date of issue.