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**Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties  
to the Montreal Protocol on  
Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**  
New Delhi, 30 October–3 November 2006

**Item 9 of the provisional agenda  
of the high-level segment:  
Adoption of decisions by the Eighteenth Meeting  
of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**

**Draft decisions and proposed adjustment**

**Addendum**

**Draft decision proposed by Norway on laboratory and analytical  
critical uses of methyl bromide**

The annex to the present note contains a draft decision submitted by Norway on laboratory and analytical critical uses of methyl bromide.

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\* UNEP/OzL.Pro.18/1.

## Annex

### **Draft decision XVIII/\_\_\_ : Laboratory and analytical critical uses of methyl bromide**

*Noting* with appreciation the work undertaken by the Chemicals Technical Options Committee and the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee in considering, in accordance with decision XVII/10 of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties, the relevance of the categories of uses listed in annex IV to the report of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties<sup>1</sup> to laboratory and critical uses of methyl bromide,

*Acknowledging* that in decision VII/11, agreed in 1995 by the Seventh Meeting of the Parties, Parties were urged to identify and review the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in order to adopt where possible ODS-free technologies,

*Noting* that the Chemicals Technical Options Committee and the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee reported that alternatives to methyl bromide are available for many laboratory and analytical critical uses, including those used as methylating agents,

*Noting also* that the Chemicals Technical Options Committee and the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee were not in favour of classifying field trials using methyl bromide as laboratory and analytical uses because of the impracticality and cost of using a large number of small containers of 99 per cent pure methyl bromide, and that Parties wishing to carry out such field trials should submit a critical-use nomination,

*Recognizing* that some laboratory and analytical critical uses noted in the Committees' report are applicable to both quarantine and pre-shipment and to feedstock uses, which are not controlled under the Montreal Protocol,

The Parties *decide*:

1. To authorize, for Parties not operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5, the production and consumption of the controlled substance in Annex E of the Protocol necessary to satisfy laboratory and analytical critical uses and subject to the conditions established in paragraph 2 of the present decision;
2. Subject to the conditions applied to the exemption for laboratory and analytical uses set forth in annex II of the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties,<sup>2</sup> to adopt a category of laboratory and analytical critical use to allow methyl bromide to be used as a reference of standard:
  - (a) To calibrate equipment which uses methyl bromide;
  - (b) To monitor methyl bromide emission levels;
  - (c) To determine methyl bromide residue levels in goods, plants and commodities;
3. That any decision taken pursuant to the present decision does not preclude a Party from nominating a specific use under the critical-use procedure specified in decision IX/6 of the Ninth Meeting of the Parties .

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro.7/12.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro.6/7.

## **EXPLANATORY TEXT**

This text is not published with the above decision but is instead used to explain the basis of each paragraph prior to its adoption.

### **Preambular statements**

These should remain with the final text as they summarise the results of the work, as requested by the Parties in Decision XVII/10, undertaken by the "Chemical Technical Options Committee" and the "Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee". The Committees report is on pages 69-71 of the May 2006 TEAP Progress Report.

The Committees' report was framed by previous decisions in which the Parties, *inter alia*,

- Excluded uses where alternatives were available, encouraged Parties to adopt ODS-free procedures where possible in standard procedures, and adopted an illustrative list of laboratory and analytical subject to TEAP review (Dec VII/11, and Annex IV of the report of the Seventh MOP);
- Imposed specific conditions such as a high level of purity (99% pure), re-closable containers, labelling, and small container size (less than 3 litres, or in 10 millilitre or smaller ampoules) (Annex II of the Sixth MOP).

Because of these conditions the Committees were not in favour of classifying field trials as laboratory and analytical critical uses because of the high cost and impracticality of applying methyl bromide to a field from very small containers. Instead, it was recommended that Parties wishing to use methyl bromide for field trials for the purpose of comparing alternatives with methyl bromide should submit a nomination for critical uses to the Protocol.

The Committees reported that methyl bromide's use as a methylating agent could be substituted with other non-ODS chemicals such as methyl iodide. In some cases, the methyl bromide was totally consumed in a reaction, sometimes in large quantities, and therefore it qualified as a feedstock agent not subject to control in the Montreal Protocol. As alternatives were considered to be available, the Committees' report did not show the need to use methyl bromide as a methylating agent and in the formation of a Grignard reagent.

The Committees provided examples of the uses of methyl bromide that required unknown concentrations in air, plant, commodity or other materials to be determined and/or monitored in comparison to a standard or reference. A standard or reference requires a container of known volume into which is placed a precisely-measured quantity of methyl bromide – and therefore the precise concentration is known - in order to compare and quantify initially unknown

concentrations. Some of the examples provided were QPS and therefore are not subject to control in the Montreal Protocol.

### **Paragraph 1**

This is a standard paragraph that focuses the intent of the Decision on non-A5(1) Parties and authorizes them to produce and consume methyl bromide for laboratory and analytical critical uses, subject to the conditions contained in paragraph 2 of this decision. A5(1) Parties can continue to use methyl bromide for laboratory and critical uses until 2015 when methyl bromide is scheduled to be phased out.

### **Paragraph 2**

This paragraph reflects the result of the technical report by the Committees which, through examples they provided, required methyl bromide to be available as a reference or standard to calibrate:

- Equipment, such as a methyl bromide detector used for monitoring low-level concentrations of methyl bromide
- To monitor emission levels, for example from methyl bromide-treated material that might slowly emit low-level concentrations of methyl bromide
- To determine the residue level of methyl bromide in goods (e.g. mattresses imported in a shipping container), plants (e.g. live plant material that may or may not be damaged by methyl bromide fumigation when imported) and commodities (e.g. rice, wood).

### **Paragraph 3**

This paragraph is in effect a default in that if the intended use that is not included within paragraph 2, the Party can apply for a critical use following standard nomination procedures.

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Note that paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of Decision XVII/10 remain operative and require:

- TEAP to report in 2007 and every other year thereafter on the development and availability of MB-free laboratory and analytical uses
- The Parties to decide any uses which are no longer laboratory and analytical uses requiring the use of methyl bromide;
- The Secretariat to establish and maintain a consolidated list of laboratory and analytical critical uses that the Parties have agreed no longer require the use of methyl bromide.