



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Brian R. Leahy  
Director

## MEMORANDUM

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

TO: Dr. Marylou Verder-Carlos  
Assistant Director  
Pesticide Programs Division

**HSM-16009**

**(No. assigned after issuance of memo)**

FROM: Lisa Ross, Ph.D.  
Environmental Program Manager II  
Chief, Worker Health and Safety Branch  
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*[Original signed by L. Ross]*

DATE: January 15, 2016

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF METHYL IODIDE MITIGATION

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Methyl iodide (MeI) is a pre-plant fumigant. It is the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) policy to conduct a risk assessment for every new fumigant submitted for registration in California. A risk assessment to evaluate the risks associated with the inhalation of MeI was completed in 2010.

The risk assessment recommended the acute Margins of Exposures (MOEs) be evaluated with a benchmark MOE of 300, an additional uncertainty factor of 10-fold applied to the conventional value of 30, because of concerns about MeI causing potential pre- and post-natal developmental neurotoxicity and the adequacy of neurotoxicity testing. For some acute exposure scenarios, the calculated MOEs of the endpoints were well below the benchmark. Some acute exposure scenarios were well below a benchmark MOE of 30. The lifetime cancer risks of worker and general population exposures, when compared to benchmarks of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ , respectively, exceeded the benchmarks by 5- and 140-fold.

No mitigation of risks is necessary at this time because no products containing MeI are currently registered in California. However, if a registrant applies for the registration of a product containing MeI as a fumigant for use in California, DPR will complete a risk assessment prior to approving the registration of the product. Your approval of this conclusion is requested.

cc: Kevin Solari, Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisory)

### APPROVAL

*[Original signed by M. Verder-Carlos]*  
Marylou Verder-Carlos, Assistant Director

January 25, 2016  
Date

