

California Walnut Board

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GRADES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2012

The California Walnut Board Grades & Standards Committee held a teleconference meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the CWB office in Folsom, CA. Committee Vice Chairperson Steve Lindsay called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Ms. Dana Steindorf called the roll and established a quorum. The following Committee members were present via telephone:

Steve Lindsay, Vice Chairperson
Chuck Crain
Frank Guerra
Gus Mariani
Pete Turner

Committee Chairperson Bill Carriere and non-voting Committee member Sam Keiper were not present. Also participating on the call were Duane Lindsay, CWC Technical Consultant; Andrea Ricci of USDA/ARS; Thomas Jones of DFA; Spencer Walse of USDA; and CWB staff members Dennis Balint, Carl Eidsath and Dana Steindorf.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Grades & Standards meeting held on June 7, 2012. Mr. Crain made a motion to approve the minutes as mailed; Mr. Guerra seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The next item on the agenda was the India Protocol. Mr. Eidsath stated that a couple of weeks ago he received an email from APHIS which included the protocol information from India for the public comments that are due by December 1. The protocol specifies a treatment using methyl bromide at one-pound per thousand cubic feet at a minimum temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of 24 hours. Mr. Eidsath stated that APHIS is asking us to make different propositions for protocol if that fits in our business plan. Our public comments should include different chemicals, different exposure times, and/or different concentrations if that is something we would like to propose.

Mr. Eidsath commented that some of the items in the India protocol might be of particular concern, especially the 70 degree minimum, the one-pound per thousand cubic feet, and the alternate use of phosphine and/or sulfuryl fluoride. The 24-hour duration is consistent with the Japanese and Korean protocols; the concentration and temperature for India are not consistent with those protocols. The Japanese and Korean protocols call for 60 degrees Fahrenheit or more and the application is three pounds NAP and three and half pounds for vacuum per 1,000 cubic feet.

Dr. Walse stated that if we were to take what India proposed and look at the species mentioned, predominately navel orangeworm, we have a wealth of data to review. Most of the data that he has was collected at 60 degrees. He stated that if you were trying to target navel orangeworm with the proposed treatment, you would have no problem doing so. Diapausing codling moth, codling moth eggs and navel orangeworm eggs are about equally susceptible to methyl bromide. Dr. Walse estimates that a sixteen pound dose at 60 degrees, 50% load factor would give you 85-90 CTs.

Mr. Balint asked Dr. Walse if the higher temperature helps with the kill – but will it affect quality. Dr. Walse stated that the higher temperature helps with the kill. Mr. Turner and Mr. Crain commented that the higher temperature should not affect quality, however, Mr. Crain's concern is the industry's ability to hit those higher temperatures during the winter months. He would like to see a higher concentration at a lower temperature in the protocol. Mr. Crain also commented that the protocol for almonds into India allows for down to 50 degrees Fahrenheit at 2.5 pounds per thousand cubic feet of methyl bromide. Mr. Steve Lindsay stated that it would be helpful to be able to look at 50 degrees. He asked Dr. Walse if he had any data to support that. Dr. Walse stated that he does have some data to support as low as 55 degrees; going from lower temperature with a higher dosage would be a consistent method.

Mr. Steve Lindsay commented that staying in the 60 degree window is a good recommendation at 16g/cubic meter for 24 hours for NAP. The Committee continued to discuss the proposed treatment table that was received from EPA; they agreed to look at the NAP sliding table based on Dr. Walse's data and generate a proposed table for India based on the Japanese or Korean protocol for vacuum applications. The Committee directed Mr. Eidsath to work with Dr. Walse to put together the tables to submit during the comment period. Mr. Eidsath stated he would send the table and documentation to the Committee prior to submission to APHIS.

Under other business, the Committee discussed the on-going PPO project that Dr. Walse is conducting. Dr. Walse stated that they are getting quite a bit of results from the PPO fumigation; based on the protocol so far, straight from the PPO chamber to a storage temperature of 59 degrees Fahrenheit, it may be 12-14 days until the PPO residues are less than 300 parts per million. Dr. Walse indicated that to increase the number of vacuum flushes at warmer temperatures could bring it to 300 ppm in a shorter time period. Mr. Crain stated that achieving the 300 ppm could be done with more air washes. Dr. Walse stated that he would send the Committee the data that he has so far and the Committee can decide if they would like to see more air washes. The Committee agreed they would like to see if the temperature can be decreased by adding more air washes. Mr. Eidsath stated that the Committee can re-address this issue at the next meeting.

The time and place of the next meeting will be scheduled for either the week of December 10th or 17th. Staff will survey for available dates. There was no need for an Executive Session. Hearing no further business, Vice Chairperson Lindsay adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.