January 18, 2023

RE: 1,3-Dichloropropene Field Fumigation Requirements Established January 1, 2024

Formed in 2020, Teleos Ag Solutions is Dow’s exclusive global distributor of 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D), sold under the brand name TELONE™. Teleos Ag Solutions is a wholly-owned subsidiary of TriCal Soil Solutions. We provide technical expertise to our distributors, growers and certified applicators on the proper soil preparation, application and soil sealing for Telone applications. In addition, we provide training on permit conditions and requirements in an effort to keep our applicators in compliance with the complex and most restrictive Telone regulations in the world.

Telone is a critical tool needed in California agriculture for the management of plant parasitic nematodes and soil borne diseases. These pathogens attack and weaken the root system of food-producing plants thereby reducing yields and production to levels low enough to take out the economic viability of the crop. In addition, weakened root systems reduce the uniformity and efficiency of water and plant food uptake. Unhealthy food crops lead to more use of pesticides, fertilizer, and water, all of which are scarce and expensive commodities in California.

All of the 1,3-D applications are performed through licensed and trained companies in order to maintain the highest levels of expertise and stewardship. Teleos AG Solutions does not allow grower or third-party applications of 1,3-D in California. Our channel partners not only sell the product to the grower, but they have made a substantial investment of infrastructure for the storage, transport and application of 1,3-D products. The product is controlled by our channel partners from the time it leaves their storage tank to the time it is applied in the field. This is an internal Teleos policy in order to meet the highest standards of stewardship of 1,3-D in California.

Teleos Ag Solutions appreciates the opportunity to comment on DPR’s proposed regulations on 1,3-D. We acknowledge DPRs collaboration with industry to obtain field-scale fumigant emissions data. Below are the specific comments regarding (1) soil moisture requirements and (2) the proposed application season of November-February.

1. Soil Moisture Requirements

To comply with the soil moisture requirements, DPR proposes: *Option 1 – Irrigation: Irrigate with three inches of water 48-72 hours to fumigation with 1,3-D.* Irrigating three inches of water is excessive for many soil types in California, and would result in soil that is too wet to fumigate. It would be more appropriate to require a “an Irrigation to deliver a sufficient amount of water to achieve a minimum of 50% Available Water Capacity at a depth of three to nine inches below the soil surface when fumigation occurs.” The amount of water needed to accomplish this will vary widely across soil type and textures. The growers and their irrigation specialists are the most qualified to determine the amount of water to meet the soil moisture requirements.

1. The proposed application season of November-February

Including the months of November and February into the “winter season” causes a great deal of consternation in the industry due to the small number of acres that can be fumigated at the setbacks to occupied structures during this timeframe. February and November have historically been the highest-use months simply because of the availability of natural rainfall to meet labeled soil moisture requirements with a critical focus on conserving scarce water resources. With the most commonly used tree and vine rate of 332 lbs/acre, an applicator can only treat 5 acres with a 100 ft buffer zone to an occupied structure. This necessitates repeated trips to fumigate a field that could have been fumigated in one day, costing more in fuel and labor. We propose that DPR look at modeling November and February versus December and January to determine if a third application season would be warranted, allowing more acres to be treated with the current setbacks.

Sincerely,

Brian Hegland

TELONE™ Sales Specialist, Teleos Ag Solutions