

Ozone Layer Protection in Taiwan Newsletter



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Methyl Bromide Use in Taiwan for QPS Applications

In accordance with Articles 5 and 10 of the "Methyl Bromide Management Regulations," entities and companies using methyl bromide for domestic Quarantine and Pre-Shipment (QPS) applications, as well as importers, are required to apply to the Ministry of Environment for approval prior to the use or import of methyl bromide. Authorized entities and companies are also required to submit periodic reports, including information on the categories of commodities treated by fumigation and the quantities of methyl bromide used.

Based on user-reported data, the distribution of methyl bromide use for Quarantine and Pre-Shipment (QPS) applications in Taiwan in recent years is shown in Figure 1. In 2024, total methyl bromide use for QPS applications amounted to 48,193 kilograms, a decrease of 3,380 kilograms compared with 2023. Of this total, 42,021 kilograms (approximately 87%) were used for quarantine purposes, representing a 7% decrease (2,967 kilograms) from 2023, primarily due to reduced use in the treatment of imported fresh fruits and vegetables. Pre-shipment use totaled 6,172 kilograms (approximately 13%), a decrease of 6% (413 kilograms) compared with 2023.

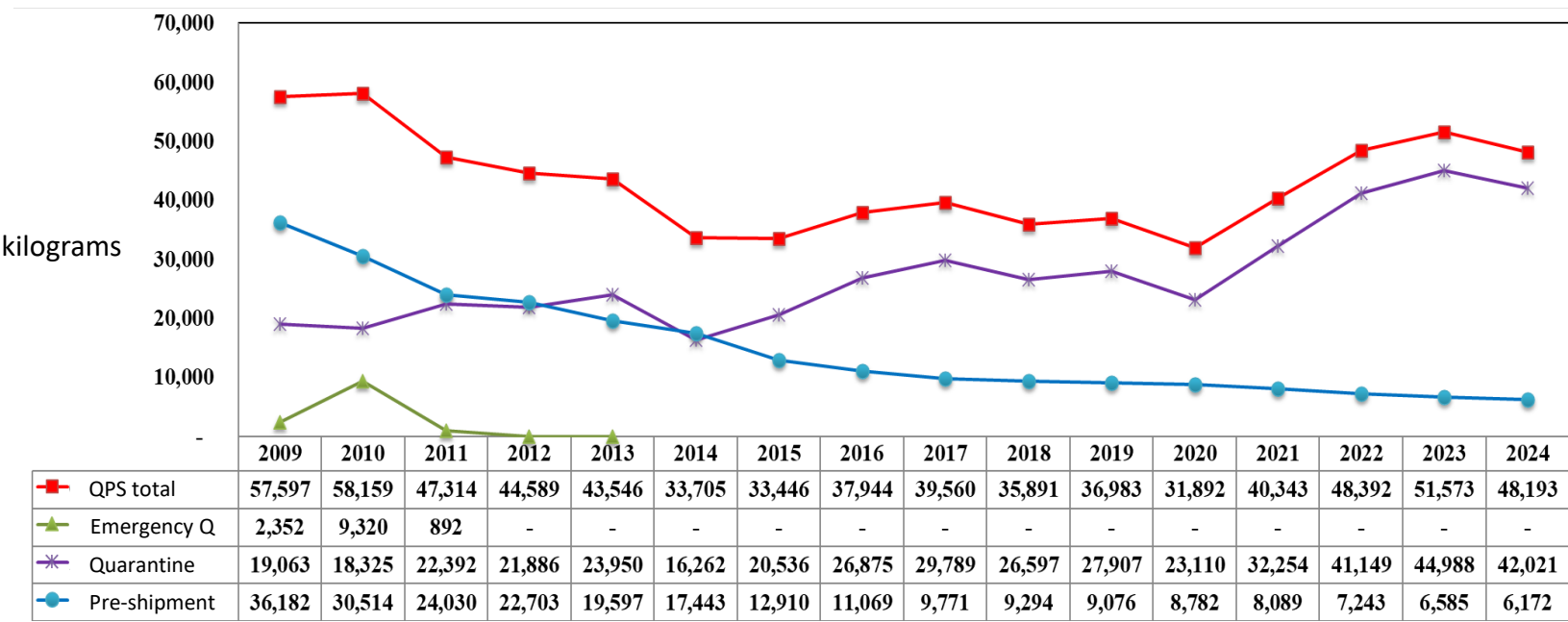


Figure 1. Trends in Methyl Bromide Use for QPS Applications in Taiwan

To prevent and control the introduction and spread of quarantine pests, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture uses 100% methyl bromide for commodity quarantine treatments. In 2024, imported fresh fruits and vegetables represented the largest share of use (62.33%), followed by imported timber and wood products (13.32%), imported bulbs, flowers, and seeds (8.44%), and imported growing media and exported logs and wood products (8.21% and 4.98%, respectively), as illustrated in Figure 2.

Pre-shipment treatment, which is mainly conducted by private companies, uses 98% methyl bromide for commodity fumigation. In 2024, exported wood packaging materials accounted for the largest share of use (60.37%), followed by exported personal effects (17.37%), with other exported commodities and exported timber and wood products together accounting for about 17.43% (Figure 3).

Methyl bromide is an acutely toxic chemical. The Ministry of Environment urges users to exercise caution and minimize its use, and to adopt alternative technologies—such as heat treatment, phosphine, or cold treatment—whenever feasible, to protect the ozone layer and the environment.

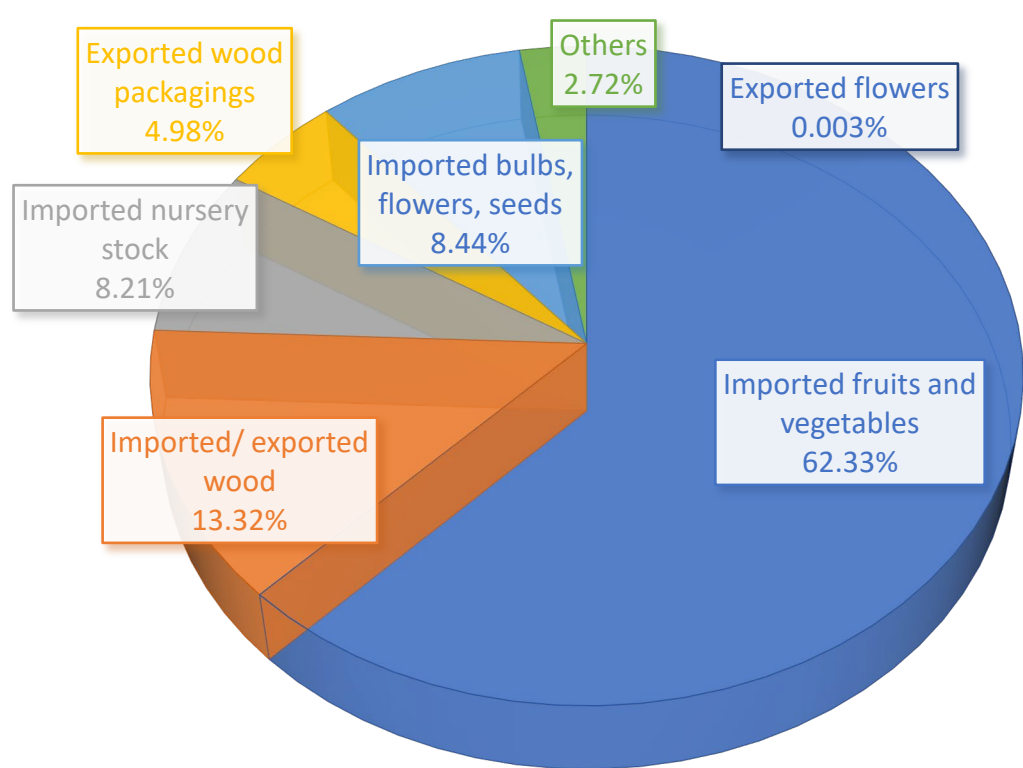


Figure 2. Commodity Categories Treated with 100% Methyl Bromide for Quarantine in Taiwan, 2024

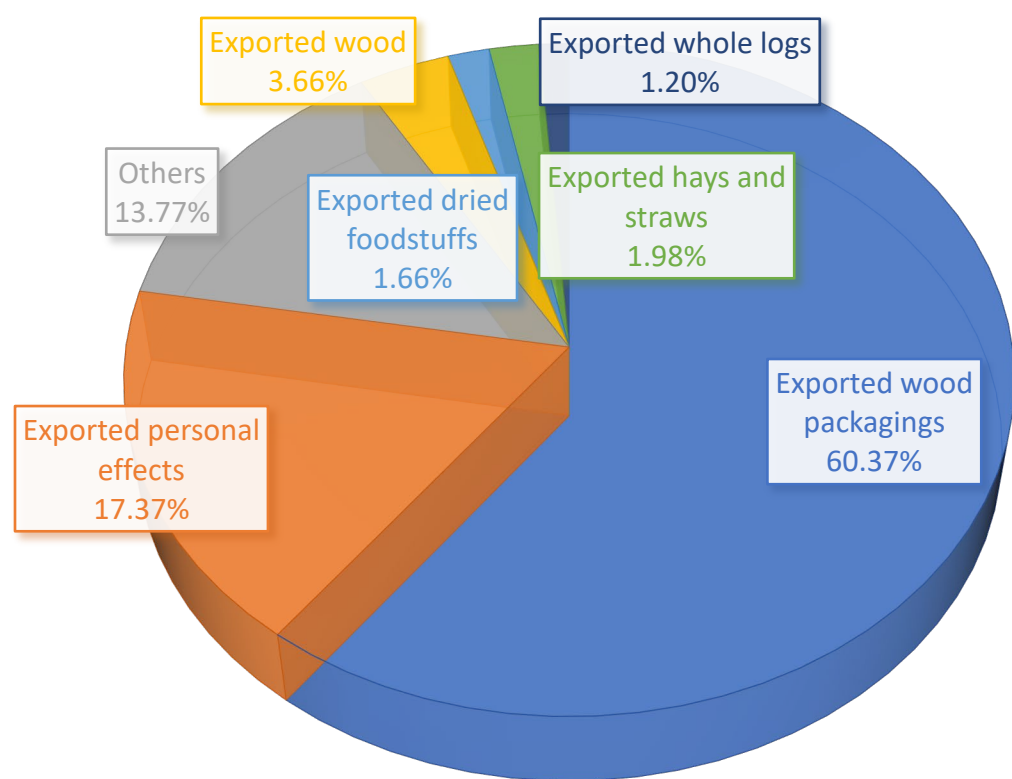


Figure 3. Commodity Categories Treated with 98% Methyl Bromide for Quarantine in Taiwan, 2024

MOENV Completes Issuance of 2026 HCFCs Allocation

In accordance with the Montreal Protocol, the annual allocation cap for the period 2020–2029 is set at 0.5% of the national consumption baseline (i.e., 3,191 ODP kilograms) and is restricted exclusively to servicing uses for refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. On October 30, 2025, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) convened the Review Meeting on Reported Performance for the First Half of 2025 and the Annual Allocation for 2026 for HCFCs Allocation Holders, during which the full-year HCFCs allocations for 2026 were approved for eligible companies.

Following the amendment of the *Management Regulations for Hydrochlorofluorocarbons* on October 13, 2025, the MOENV reviewed reported performance submitted by eligible companies in accordance with the approved review principles. Pursuant to the Regulations, the allocation for 2026 was calculated as the sum of actual performance in the second half of 2024 and the first half of 2025, capped at each company's total allocation for the full year of 2024. In total, 12 companies qualified for allocation, including three user companies accounting for 67% of the total allocation and nine supplier companies accounting for the remaining 33%.

The allocation process for HCFCs for the full year of 2026 has now been completed. Compared with 2025, the total allocation for 2026 represents a reduction of 902 ODP kilograms. Given that the use of HCFC-22 in manufacturing processes has been prohibited in Taiwan for more than a decade, and that equipment still relying on HCFCs is being progressively phased out, the allocation assessment incorporated an evaluation of the reasonableness of company inventory levels. This measure aims to prevent excessive imports and stockpiling of HCFCs.

The MOENV reiterates that allocations granted to user companies may not be resold or used for distribution purposes. Any violation of this requirement will be subject to penalties under Article 68 of the *Air Pollution Control Act*, with fines ranging from NT\$100,000 to NT\$2,000,000, and, in serious cases, an order to suspend operations. In addition, companies involved in false reporting will be subject to criminal liability in accordance with the law and penalties pursuant to Article 71 of the *Business Entity Accounting Act*.

Taiwan’s ODS Consumption and Control Measures

In accordance with the control provisions of the Montreal Protocol, Taiwan’s consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has been reduced to zero since 1996. In the same year, the consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) was frozen at a level below 100% of Taiwan’s consumption baseline (638.156 ODP tonnes).

Subsequently, Taiwan’s HCFCs consumption was progressively reduced to 382.51 ODP tonnes in 2004, 152.56 ODP tonnes in 2010, 59.35 ODP tonnes in 2015, and 2.173 ODP tonnes in 2020. In accordance with the Montreal Protocol, these levels were controlled below 65% (414.801 ODP tonnes), 25% (159.539 ODP tonnes), 10% (63.8156 ODP tonnes), and 0.5% (3.191 ODP tonnes) of the baseline, respectively.

In 2024, Taiwan’s HCFCs consumption totaled 2.611 ODP tonnes, representing a slight increase of 0.02 ODP tonnes compared with 2023, and remained below the 0.5% baseline required under the Montreal Protocol. Taiwan’s progress in reducing HCFCs consumption over the years is illustrated in Figure 4.

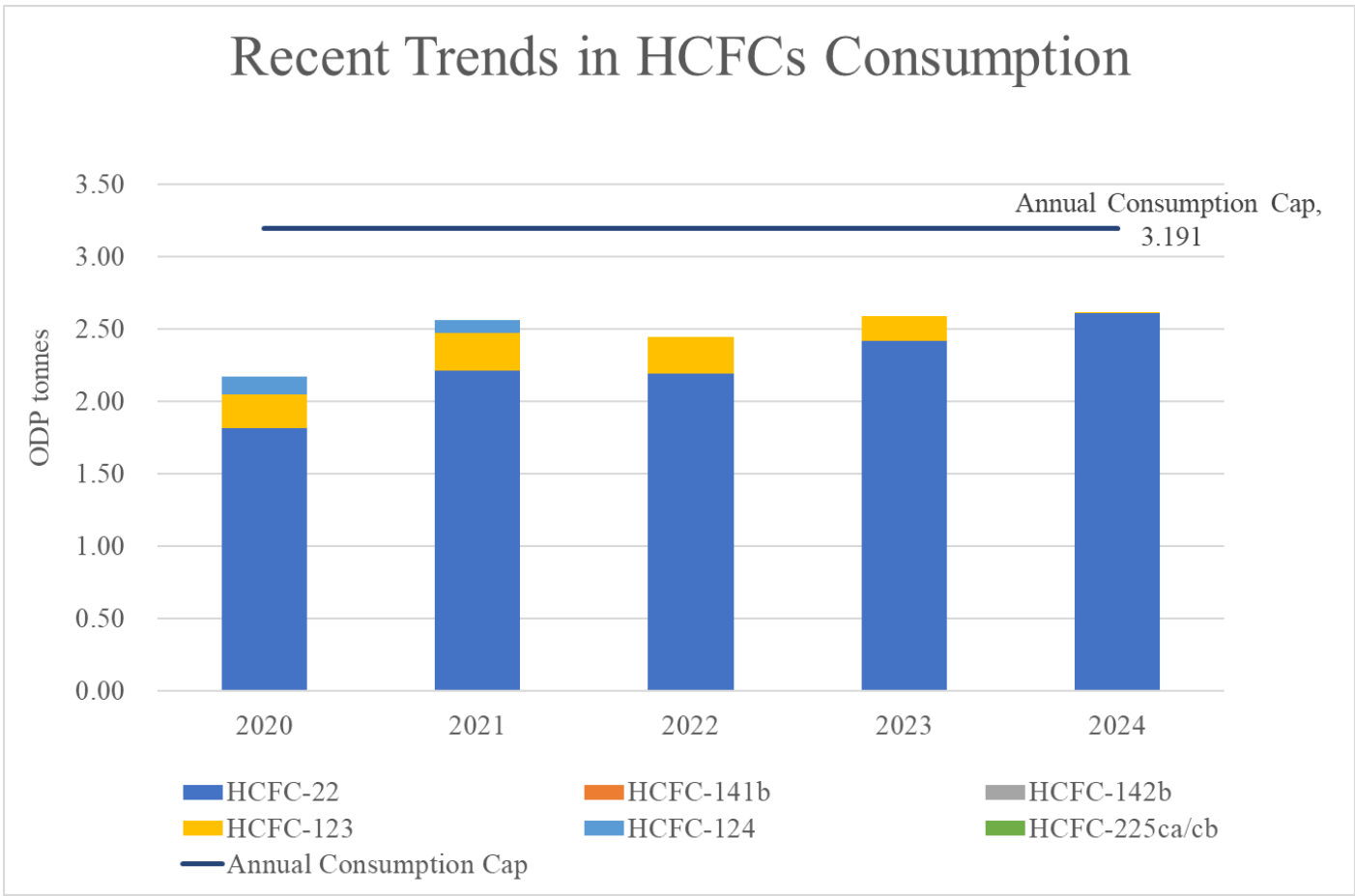


Figure 4. Trends in HCFCs Consumption in Taiwan

To effectively control HCFCs consumption, Taiwan has adopted an allocation system in combination with a phased prohibition on specific uses. Since January 1, 2020, the use of any type of HCFCs has been prohibited for refrigerant charging in newly manufactured refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment and new construction projects, as well as for applications such as aerosol propellants, foam blowing agents, and solvents (including use in manufacturing and cleaning processes). HCFCs are now restricted exclusively to servicing uses for existing refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment.

To achieve the goal of ceasing HCFCs imports from 2030 onward, the Ministry of Environment reiterates its call for the public and businesses to proactively replace older air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment that still uses HCFC-22 as a refrigerant. This is to avoid potential difficulties in servicing such equipment once HCFCs refrigerants are no longer available. In addition, older equipment generally poses a higher risk of refrigerant leakage, which can reduce energy efficiency and increase energy consumption, leading to higher indirect greenhouse gas emissions. Refrigerant leakage also contributes to ozone layer depletion.

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