

Q&A: Recommended Restriction on Use of Vikane® fumigant to fumigate residences with attics enclosed with open- or closed-cell polyurethane spray foam insulation (PSFI) where the PSFI also covers access to attic air circulation vents

- Q. I do fumigation work for termite control companies. Who has responsibility to determine if the building can be fumigated based on the recommended restrictions?
- A. It is ultimately your responsibility as the fumigator. You should provide the Notice of Recommended Restrictions and Q & A to the termite control companies for whom you conduct fumigations for their information. You also should check the attics of buildings before you prepare them for fumigation to ensure compliance with the restrictions.
- Q. I have not seen this type of attic insulation applied to homes in my area [e.g. application of open or closed cell polyurethane spray foam insulation (PSFI) to cover the underside of roof sheathing (either between or over the roof rafters or joists) in attics where the PSFI also partially or fully covers access to attic air circulation vents (including those in soffits, gable end-walls, and roof ridges)]. Are there certain areas in the U.S. or certain types of homes where this insulation method is now used?
- A. Douglas Products has been informed that this insulation method is most commonly seen in new and remodeled middle to high-end homes, particularly in the southeastern US and in coastal areas prone to hurricanes. But use of this insulation method is not limited to those homes or areas, so fumigators should be vigilant in inspecting attic insulation in every home, regardless of location.
- Q. Does the notice of recommended restrictions apply to boats, mobile homes, R.V.s, or manufactured homes?
- A. Douglas Products' recommended restrictions are limited only to residences with attics that are insulated in the manner described in the Notice dated September 18, 2018. For all applications, however, applicators must follow all label-prescribed procedures for aeration, and clearance testing to 1 ppm must be confirmed in the breathing zones in all rooms before releasing the home for reoccupancy.

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- Q. Can I fumigate residences with Vikane® fumigant which have a crawlspace and/or walls sealed in polyurethane spray foam insulation (PSFI)?
- A. Douglas Products' recommended restrictions are limited only to structures with attics that are insulated with PSFI in the manner described in the Notice dated September 18, 2018. For all applications, however, applicators must follow all label-prescribed procedures for aeration, and clearance testing to 1 ppm must be confirmed in the breathing zones in all rooms before releasing the home for reoccupancy.
- Q. When I conduct a tape-seal-fumigation of a residence for bed bug control, I exclude Vikane® fumigant from the attic by sealing all interior attic accesses and vents. Can I still conduct these fumigations in residences with non-vented attics with application of open or closed cell polyurethane spray foam insulation (PSFI) to cover the underside of roof sheathing (either between or over the roof rafters or joists) in attics where the PSFI also partially or fully covers access to attic air circulation vents (including those in soffits, gable end-walls, and roof ridges)?
- A. This notice applies to any situation where fumigant is allowed to enter attics that are insulated in the manner described in the Notice dated September 18, 2018. For these and any other applications, fumigators must follow all label prescribed procedures for aeration and clearance testing to 1 ppm is confirmed in the breathing zones in all rooms before releasing the home for reoccupancy.