

Quarantine technology stepped up

Tasports has committed to deploy an additional six advanced quarantine fumigation systems at its facilities in Tasmania.

Tasports, having a four year business relationship with Nordiko Quarantine Systems, have been working together to improve fumigation technology and procedures for better environmental and safety outcomes in the State.

Originally, two Nordiko units were delivered to the then Hobart Ports Corporation in 2002. The units provide what is known as recapture technology in quarantine fumigations where methyl bromide is used. Methyl Bromide is a broad acting but toxic gas necessary to protect Tasmania's biosecurity. Nordiko's systems provide a temperature-controlled environment for fumigation within shipping containers, enhancing the

effectiveness (and reducing gas dosages required), but then recaptures the gas at the conclusion of the fumigation. This patented technology was developed in Australia.

Federal authorities are currently considering the national implementation of recapture technology, and according to Nordiko, Canberra can look to Tasmania as having made pioneering progress in leading the adoption of new technology.

"By using Nordiko's technology, Tasports is not only ensuring proper fumigation standards are met with regards to temperature and concentration levels of gas, but is keeping employees in the workplace safe from the potentially serious ill effects of exposure to methyl bromide gas", says Nordiko's General Manager, Wil Grullemans.



Nordiko's Wil Grullemans with John Richards from Hobart Cold Stores

Australian Customs uses Nordiko technology throughout Australia, and has just ordered two ventilation systems for its new Bell Bay operations to be commissioned at the end of this year.

Methyl Bromide is an effective quarantine tool. Because of its toxicity, and the damage it causes to the ozone layer, replacement gases are under investigation, although are still some years from being commercially available.