

**VERMIN CONTROL**

**Site Survey**

Before any treatment begins, a thorough survey of the site is essential and is key to success to establish rodent activity levels and help decide if the use of rodenticide is required. A site survey is a record of every inspection and/or survey undertaken. This involves inspecting the farm for signs of rodent activity or environmental management requirements. The site survey must outline the following:

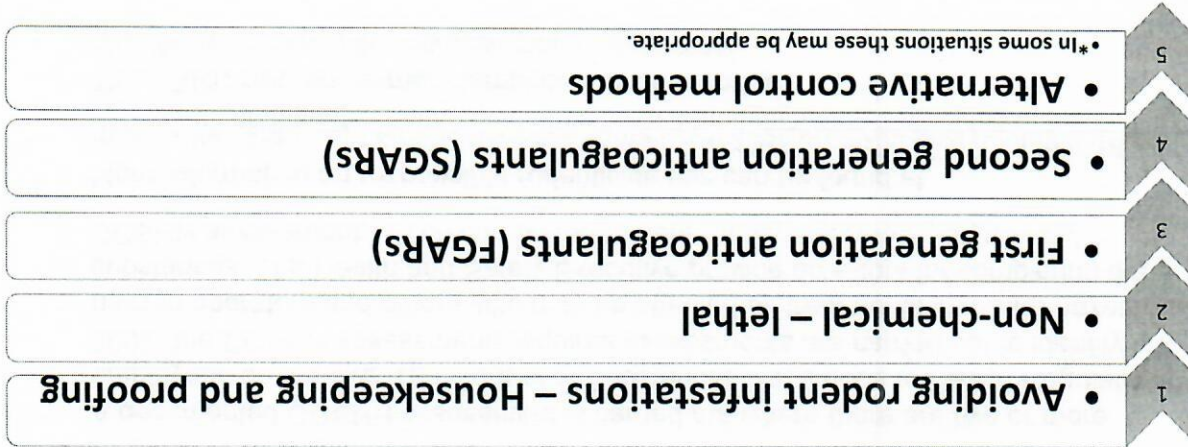
- Date of inspection
- Locations inspected
- Findings (including type, level and extent of infestation and all potential opportunities e.g. feed spills/gaps/habitats such as weeds and rubbish)
- Actions required (including what needs to be completed and by whom)
- Date completed (initials to verify)

The best form of vermin control is prevention. Listed below are a few ways of avoiding rodent infestations:

- Exclusion and proofing methods
- Hygiene (including removal of feed spillages)
- Removal of harbourages

Where the site survey identifies a rodent infestation, a 'risk hierarchy' must be used when considering the rodent control strategy. This means considering the use of non-chemical control methods first, followed by the least toxic alternatives.

**Risk Hierarchy**



**Environmental Risk Assessment**

Where the site survey identifies that the action to control rodents involves the use of rodenticides (poisonous bait) an environmental risk assessment must be carried out.

The risk assessment must cover the following:

- What the treatment is designed to achieve, what methods of rodent control will be used and how success will be measured
- Which non-target species may be present in or near the treatment site
- What steps have been/will be taken to prevent, or adequately control, exposure of wildlife/domestic pets and the environment
- How dead rodents and rodenticides will be disposed of

When using poisonous bait, the product label has to be followed at all times. Rodenticides must be kept in a secure pesticide store.

Once the infestation has been removed/controlled, what measures can be implemented to prevent re-infestation. After treatment has been completed all rodenticides should be removed and disposed of in accordance with the instruction on the label.

### Bait Plan

A plan must be in place to control vermin and records must be kept of baits used and checks made. Bait should be applied in tamper-resistant bait stations or covered bait points which are secured so that children and non-target animals cannot access them. The plan should be completed by the person responsible for vermin management and must be kept up-to-date. The baiting plan documentation must be kept for a minimum of 2 years.

The bait plan must cover the following:

- Map of bait point locations (numbered)
- Bait used
- Bait point inspection and replenishment dates. This includes evidence of regular inspections of rodenticide baits, in line with label requirements.

### COSHH Assessment

A documented COSHH assessment is carried out where there are five or more employees on the site. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (the COSHH assessment) requires assessments are carried out to identify any risks to operators and others who may be affected by treatments involving hazardous substances. The Health and Safety Executive provide an e-tool for completing the COSHH assessment, which can be found here: <http://coshh-tool.hse.gov.uk/>

More information on responsible rodenticide use can be found at

<http://www.ahdb.org.uk/projects/documents/LRAHDBRodentStrategyGuide2016.pdf>

The CRU risk assessment template can be found at:

<http://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads/resources/>

**Map of the content of farm assurance standards to CRRU code of best practice key indications.**

*Required for approval of farm assurance schemes post-December 2017 by the CRRU BP WG, as certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements*

Farm assurance scheme: BEIC Lion Code of Practice – V7.1

Evidence required	Farm Assurance standards – example content	CRRU COBP key indication
Hierarchical risk assessment, justifying the selected control method.	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b></p> <p>Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	<p><b>1. The 'risk hierarchy'</b></p> <p>a) Evidence of a hierarchical risk assessment, showing that the least severe but effective method of control has been selected.</p>
On-site evidence of proofing measures, absence of food spillages and reduced rodent harbours e.g. lack of vegetation cover at building perimeters.	<p><b>C22.</b> All buildings shall be wild bird and vermin proof (rats, mice). For free range/organic sites, this applies when pop-holes are closed. Gaps at ridge, eaves, gables and around doors must be corrected. Buildings (including feed store) must be vermin proof. (For free range/organic sites, this applies with pop-holes closed). No wild birds should be seen in buildings. Auditor to visually assess if there is evidence of rodents (rats, mice). If rodents not seen, is there satisfactory proofing in place? ('Vermin' is defined in these guidance notes as a collective name for wild animals that spread disease and generally cause a nuisance e.g. rats and other rodents).</p> <p><b>D5.</b> The general appearance/cleanliness of the site shall be satisfactory.</p>	<p><b>2. Avoiding rodent infestations</b></p> <p>a) Exclusion / proofing – the aim is to keep rodents out of buildings. Hygiene – prevent rodent access to food. Harborage – sites are to be made less attractive to rodents as places to live and breed.</p> <p>b) Exclusion / proofing – the aim is to keep rodents out of buildings. Hygiene – prevent rodent access to food. Harborage – sites are to be made less attractive to rodents as places to live and breed.</p>

<p>grass and weeds particularly around air inlets. There should be no excessive standing surface water, broken drains or gutters or discarded equipment. D6. All rubbish/waste shall be disposed of hygienically and safely. Rubbish should be stored prior to incineration or removal from the site (Visual). Indicate the method of disposal used.</p>	<p><b>C23. CRITICAL</b> There must be a documented, effective control programme against wild birds, vermin, rodents and pests in poultry houses and feed stores. Effective measures must be taken by suitably trained personnel to control vermin, rodents, flies and other arthropods including the elimination of potential breeding areas. Such control measures must be carried out using licensed products in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and must be logged to enable Senior Management to determine that the necessary operations have been carried out. Conduct visual assessment of a clear bait plan and notes of actions taken and baits used. If undertaken by a contractor nothing else required. If 'in house', records on purchase and use should be available. (Written Assessment) The importance of an effective rodent control programme in controlling <i>Salmonella</i> on farms cannot be stressed strongly enough. ('Vermin' is defined in these guidance notes as a collective name for wild animals that spread disease and generally cause a nuisance e.g. rats and other rodents. A 'Pest' is defined in these guidance notes as an insect or animal harmful to food or livestock).</p>	<p><b>3. What to do before treatment</b></p> <p>a) Areas of use – it is essential to apply rodenticides only in those areas where their use is permitted by the product authorisation and shown on the product label.</p> <p>b) Site survey – to include type, level and extent of infestation. Identify non-target animals, housekeeping, hygiene and proofing issues.</p>
<p>Check relevant product labels against on-site bait locations, to determine correct area of use e.g. are baits applied in 'open areas', 'in and around buildings', 'indoors' in line with label requirements. A site survey report must be present.</p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b> Pests shall be suitably controlled, in</p>	

	<p>(Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p> <p>The appropriate CRRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed.</p> <p>Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves.</p> <p>Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	
<p>COSHH assessment present.</p> <p>Environmental risk assessment present.</p>	<p><b>04. COSHH records shall be held on site.</b></p> <p>Most farms other than very large complexes only need COSHH data sheets for chemicals in use.</p> <p>These should include rodenticides used on the site. Procedures associated with the running of equipment are the prerogative of the Health and Safety Executive.</p> <p><b>05. COSHH records shall be relevant to the products in current use.</b></p> <p><b>C24. CRITICAL Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</b></p>	<p><b>4. Risk assessments</b></p> <p>a) COSHH assessment – identify risks to operators and others who may be affected by treatments involving hazardous substances and record the findings.</p> <p>b) Environmental risk assessment – conduct this when a risk to the environment has been identified during the site survey. Record this assessment in writing.</p>
<p>On-site evidence of proofing measures, good hygiene, harbourage reduction and traps where appropriate.</p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</b></p>	<p><b>5. Guidance for treatments</b></p> <p>a) Use a variety of control methods – it is important that you do not rely solely on the use of</p>

<p>in tamper-resistant bait stations or covered bait points or secured so that children and non-target animals cannot access it.</p>	<p>seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	<p>b) Placing the bait – control rodents, adequately protected from children and non-target animals.</p>
<p>Bait plan present.</p>	<p><b>C23. CRITICAL</b> There must be a documented, effective control programme against wild birds, vermin, rodents and pests in poultry houses and feed stores. Effective measures must be taken by suitably trained personnel to control vermin, rodents, flies and other arthropods including the elimination of potential breeding areas. Such control measures must be carried out using licensed products in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and must be logged to enable senior management to determine that the necessary operations have been carried out. Conduct visual assessment of a clear bait plan and notes of actions taken and baits used. If undertaken by a contractor nothing else required. If in house, records on purchase and use should be available. (Written Assessment) The importance of an effective rodent control programme in controlling <i>Salmonella</i> on farms cannot be stressed strongly enough. (Vermin' is defined in these guidance notes as a collective name for wild animals that spread disease and generally cause a nuisance e.g. rats and other rodents. A 'Pest' is defined in these guidance notes as an insect or animal harmful to food or livestock).</p>	<p>6. Records</p> <p>a) Make a written record of where you have placed the bait, which rodenticide was used and how much bait has been laid.</p> <p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b> Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with</p>

	<p>Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex Z). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p> <p>Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves.</p> <p>The appropriate CRRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed.</p> <p>Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	
<p>Evidence of regular inspections of rodenticide baits.</p>	<p><b>C23. CRITICAL</b> There must be a documented, effective control programme against wild birds, vermin, rodents and pests in poultry houses and feed stores. Effective measures must be taken by suitably trained personnel to control vermin, rodents, flies and other arthropods including the elimination of potential breeding areas. Such control measures must be carried out using licensed products in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and must be logged to enable senior management to determine that the necessary operations have been carried out.</p> <p>Conduct visual assessment of a clear bait plan and notes of actions taken and baits used. If undertaken by a contractor nothing else required. If in house, records on purchase and use should be available. (Written Assessment) The importance of an effective rodent control programme in controlling <i>Salmonella</i> on farms cannot be stressed strongly enough.</p> <p>'Vermin' is defined in these guidance notes as a collective name for wild animals that spread disease and generally cause a nuisance e.g. rats and other rodents. A 'Pest' is defined in these guidance notes</p>	<p><b>7. Monitoring</b></p> <p>a) If you have decided that the application of a rodenticide is needed and the treatment phase is underway, it is important to monitor it regularly to track its progress.</p>

<p>Evidence of regular replenishment of rodenticide baits.</p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b>  Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex Z). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves.  The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed.  Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	<p><b>8. Replenishing bait</b>  a) Once laid, baits should be inspected frequently and where bait has been eaten, it should be replenished as necessary according to the schedule on the product label.</p>
<p>Evidence of regular replenishment of rodenticide baits.</p>	<p><b>C23. CRITICAL</b> There must be a documented, effective control programme against wild birds, vermin, rodents and pests in poultry houses and feed stores. Effective measures must be taken by suitably trained personnel to control vermin, rodents, flies and other arthropods including the elimination of potential breeding areas. Such control measures must be carried out using licensed products in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and must be logged to enable senior management to determine that the necessary operations have been carried out.  Conduct visual assessment of a clear bait plan and notes of actions taken and baits used. If undertaken by a contractor nothing else required. If in house, records on purchase and use should be available. (Written Assessment)  The importance of an effective rodent control programme in controlling Salmonella on farms cannot be stressed strongly enough.  ('Vermin' is defined in these guidance notes as a collective</p>	<p><b>8. Replenishing bait</b>  a) Once laid, baits should be inspected frequently and where bait has been eaten, it should be replenished as necessary according to the schedule on the product label.</p>



<p>Check pest control records e.g. environmental risk assessment, for a justification of long-term perimeter baiting.</p>	<p><b>C24 CRITICAL</b> Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use). Best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves.</p>	<p><b>10. Long-term baiting</b> a) Long-term perimeter baiting should never be used as a routine rodent control measure. b) Consider any long-term baiting programme carefully and be justified in</p>
<p>Records of the removal and disposal of rodent bodies.</p>	<p><b>C24 CRITICAL</b> Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	<p><b>9. Removal of dying / dead rodents</b> a) Search for and remove any dying and dead rodents and dispose of them safely, in line with the product label. This is particularly important to reduce the risk of secondary poisoning, especially in areas where birds of prey and other predators/scavengers are known to be active.</p>
<p>spread disease and generally cause a nuisance e.g. rats and other rodents. A 'Pest' is defined in these guidance notes as an insect or animal harmful to food or livestock).</p> <p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b> Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b> Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	

	<p>your risk assessments for each location where this strategy is used.</p> <p>(c) The preferred approach is to use either traps or non-toxic baits as a guide to the presence of an infestation of pest rodents that may then trigger the use of a rodenticide.</p>	
<p>Records of rodenticide bait disposal.</p>	<p><b>11. Retrieval of bait</b></p> <p>a) After you have finished the treatment, you must make every effort to ensure all traces of the bait have been removed from the site and disposed of according to the label instructions.</p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b></p> <p>Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>
<p>Rodenticides are kept in a secure pesticide store.</p>	<p><b>12. Storage of bait</b></p> <p>a) Keep all rodenticides secure in a suitable store.</p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b></p> <p>Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with the CRU (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>
<p>On-site evidence of proofing measures, absence of food</p>	<p><b>13. Operations after removal of rodent infestations</b></p>	<p><b>C24. CRITICAL</b></p> <p>Pests shall be suitably controlled, in accordance with</p>

<p>rodent harbours e.g. lack of vegetation cover at building perimeters.</p>	<p>responsible Rodenticide Use) best practice guidelines (see annex). Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken. Buildings shall be free of easily seen droppings, pest (rodent) odour or sight of pests themselves. The appropriate CRRU risk hierarchy shall be followed. Where baits are used an appropriate bait plan shall be followed. Long term baiting must not be routinely undertaken.</p>	<p>control has been achieved the environmental management measures in point 2 should be considered as appropriate.</p>
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