



THE PEST MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

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Rodent control is changing

Recent label changes for anticoagulant rodenticides (rat/mouse poison) in the UK mean differences to how pest control is carried out on your site.

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Why?

Anticoagulants are not species-specific. This means that once administered, they will kill both target and non-target rodents and animals if the application method is not carefully managed. If non-target rodents are killed, or target rodent species are not removed once dead, then species such as birds of prey will consume the dead rodents. As the dead animal contains the poison, it is in turn passed onto the bird - this is termed as 'secondary poisoning'. For a number of years the levels of anticoagulants present in non-target species have been increasing, and for this reason the government authorities have decided that corrective action must be taken.

What can be done?

Try non-toxic approaches first:

- Proofing against rats and mice
- Removal of nearby vegetation and shelter eg old wood, scrap
- Removal of alternative food sources
- Raise hygiene standards
- Use other traps and alternative chemical products

Failing to implement such measures, if they are a reasonable alternative to the use of poisons, could be considered a breach of the new regulations.

What will the impact be?

- No more permanent baits outside¹
- Increased frequency of visits (minimum eight visits per year)
- Removal of all baits and animal carcasses
- Enhanced documentation: site-specific risk assessment plus a detailed environmental risk assessment

Where can I get help?

If your site has a pest control contract with a professional pest controller, you need do nothing - they will have all this in hand. Your pest controller is there to help you achieve your statutory obligations.

If you carry out pest control on the site yourself, we recommend you consult a professional pest controller for advice and support to ensure your systems meet the new regulations.

Find one via www.bpca.org.uk or www.npta.org.uk

Issued on behalf of the Pest Management Alliance

¹ Except in exceptional circumstances - see your professional pest controller for details.