

Rodenticide Point of Sale Audit

for Suppliers of Professional
use Rodenticides to Pest
Controllers, Farmers and
Gamekeepers

KEY FACTS (including Proof of Competence)

1. From April 2016 onwards, rodenticide products with new 'stewardship conditions' labels for use outside by professionals, including farmers, will be introduced carrying the following statement : "For supply to and use only by professional users holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements".
2. Farmers who have completed an approved training course and obtained a certificate will be permitted to buy and use these products.
3. As an interim measure, membership of a stewardship-approved farm assurance scheme listed above will also permit purchase and use of these products until the end of December 2017.
4. More farm assurance schemes are being reviewed for stewardship compliance, which depends in inclusion of a standard requiring systematic rodent pest management.
5. CRRU will also hold discussions with all stewardship-approved schemes with the objective, before the end of December 2017, to bring their standards into alignment with the CRRU Code of Best Practice (CoBP).
6. Beyond December 2017: Such CoBP—aligned schemes will continue to provide proof of competence for purchase of professional rodenticide products. Members of the scheme that have not come into alignment will not be able to use their membership for rodenticide purchases beyond the end of December 2017.

Please check the current list of approved schemes here: <http://www.thinkwildlife.org/list-of-approved-farm-assurance-schemes/>

INFORMATION ON POINT OF SALE

What are Point of Sale Audits?

In order for companies to sell professional rodenticides they will need to be able to **demonstrate** that they are meeting the controls as listed above to ensure sales are only made to certificated users.

Who will be conducting the Point of Sale Audits?

BASIS Registration has been tasked with providing independent annual on-site audits to satisfy the government oversight group, that the industry is complying with the stewardship. BASIS has almost 40 years' experience in pesticide auditing, achieved through our team of fully independent assessors who have a wealth of experience across all areas of the industry.

If you are already a BASIS registered store then the point of sale audit will be conducted during your annual BASIS inspection visit and will add a small amount of time onto your audit. You will need to make sure that all your premises are registered for an audit even if they only sell rodentices and no other pesticides.

If you have not been part of a BASIS Inspection Scheme before you will need to register each premise that you sell professional rodenticides from.

To register your premise please complete the application form which can be obtained by emailing stores@basis-reg.co.uk.

You will then receive an invoice by email which must be paid prior to any audit taking place. You can pay this through the BASIS website using the link contained in your invoice which will be emailed to you. Upon payment, BASIS will issue a 'letter of compliance' which will remain valid until the audit has taken place.

THE AUDIT

One of the BASIS Assessors will contact you to arrange the audit visit. You will be offered a date and time which we hope you will do your best to accommodate as these are made in conjunction with others in your area to keep costs (and therefore fees) to a minimum.

It will take approximately 30 minutes to complete your Point of Sale Audit. You will need to ensure a key (responsible) member of staff who is familiar with your system is available for the audit.

The Assessor will need to see evidence of transactions and how the relevant certification was checked by the distributor..

Following the audit visit you will receive an emailed report detailing any actions needed to be compliant or confirming compliance. A premise needs to achieve over 75% to be given a compliant status. 25-74% will give you a 'Qualified Pass' grade that will have actions to complete. A score of under 25% will mean that your premise is immediately non-compliant and will need a follow up inspection to check that the deficiencies have been rectified.

If your premise is compliant, you will received a certificate of compliance valid from 1st January to 31st December for the year following the audit, i.e. an audit conducted in October 2017 will give you certification from 1st January 2018.

If you have non-compliances which you do not rectify these will be reported to CRRU Point of Sale Work Group who may impose restrictions on future supply of the product and request additional audits (further charges will be necessary to cover costs) until compliance is proven.

BACKGROUND

Demands of consumers for high quality and safe food mean that there is a need for higher standards in all stages of food production. This has led to strict quality assurance requirements from buyers, such as supermarkets and food processing companies. Among these requirements is the need for highly effective control of rodents, which otherwise contaminate and destroy food at every stage from the farm to the supermarket shelf.

At the same time, government agencies responsible for the regulation of rodenticides have raised concern that many species of wildlife, such as barn owls, kestrels and red kites, are being accidentally exposed to these products. These agencies have called for better stewardship of rodenticides to prevent wildlife exposure.

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) is a response to that call. Under the banner “Think Wildlife”, CRRU promotes best practice and responsible rodent control, thereby protecting wildlife from rodenticide exposure.

WHY DO WE NEED STEWARDSHIP?

The way we currently use rodenticides, particularly the second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs), leads to widespread contamination of UK wildlife. We know that a high proportion of some bird populations, including barn owls, kestrels, sparrow hawks and red kites, and many mammals, such as stoats, weasels, foxes, hedgehogs and polecats, carry residues of these substances in their bodies. The UK Competent Authority for biocides, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), has said that in future it will only authorise rodenticides for use outside of buildings if a programme of rodenticide stewardship is in place. The CRRU UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime aims to educate users about the risk to wildlife of exposure to rodenticides and explains how to prevent it. Unless the regime is successful, HSE will consider further restrictions on who can use rodenticides and where they can be applied. One such restriction would be to permit use only indoors. That would seriously affect our ability to control rodents, especially rats, quickly and easily.

WHAT IS THE STEWARDSHIP REGIME AND WHO RUNS IT?

The regime covers all rodenticides sold to, and used by, professionals outside buildings. It does not involve rodenticides restricted to use indoors, nor the fumigant gases which are the responsibility of the Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Standards (<http://www.ramps-uk.org/>). It also does not involve rodenticide products sold to and used by amateurs.

Implementation of the regime is co-ordinated by the CRRU UK Task Force. This is a broad-based group comprising representatives of the 16 CRRU UK Member Companies, invited CRRU Technical Advisors from government and academia, the leaders of the six implementation CRRU UK Work Groups (<http://www.thinkwildlife.org/stewardship-regime/>) and representatives from a wide range of stakeholder agencies, including professional pest control, farming, game keeping and conservation.

Cornerstone of the regime is a new CRRUUK Code of Best Practice (<http://www.thinkwildlife.org/crrudownloads/crru-uk-code-of-best-practice/>).

Application of rodenticides according to the Code will prevent unnecessary exposure of wildlife, and other non-target animals, and help deliver the objectives of the regime.

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