

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

JUNE 2016



issue **107**

Everything you need to know about the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime

06

A detailed report on what you need to do to ensure you can still purchase and use anticoagulant rodenticides.

Important updates to hazardous waste regulations

11

The latest information on registration and consignment notes.

How to safely use laser technology in bird control

23

Expert guidance on using lasers in line with the law.



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Everything you need to know about the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime

06

Keep up to date with your professional development

All Pest Control News readers can now receive two BASIS PROMPT CPD points per calendar year. All you need to do to claim these points is include PCN on your annual BASIS PROMPT record using the following code:

PC/40660/15/g

For further information on the BASIS PROMPT scheme or to register, please visit:

www.basis-reg.com

A detailed report on what you need to do to ensure you can still purchase and use anticoagulant rodenticides.

PCN proud sponsors of ICUP 2017 **04**

Pest Control News is proud to announce sponsorship of the International Conference on Urban Pests 2017.

So you want to drive quality traffic to your website? **19**

A marketing expert guide to driving desirable traffic to your website.

Basic advice on air gun maintenance **32**

Expert guidance from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) regarding the maintenance of airguns.

Send us your selfie competition **10**

To be in with a chance of winning a TC7 Telescopic Camera, send us your selfie holding the latest edition of PCN magazine.

Successful rat control in an open space public area **24**

A case study from Cowbridge Beck / Daffodil Park, Billingham, Stockton on Tees

BPCA PPC Live 2016 **34**

A report on the highlights of the event held at the East of England showground.

Invasive garden ant **15**

The discovery of the invasive garden ant *Lasius neglectus* in East Sussex.

Shooting in pest control by David Archer **28**

Controlling pest's using shooting techniques and larger calibre weapons

Always read the small print **38**

Legal information on engaging in contractual agreements.

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Celebrating 25 years

This year PestWest®, the global leader in flying insect management, celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Formed in 1991, PestWest® Electronics Limited is part of the Killgerm® Group. In April 2004, the company was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade division. In 2011 PestWest® USA LLC was established followed by, PestWest® China and in 2015 Killgerm® Group acquired Starkeys Products in Australia. Through innovation, PestWest® have pioneered flying insect management.

www.pestcontrolnews.com/pestwest-celebrates-25-years



PCN proud sponsors of ICUP 2017

Pest Control News is proud to announce we are sponsors of the International Conference on Urban Pests 2017, with our very own Technical Editor, Dr Matthew Davies, leading the organising team as the Chairman of the event.

The conference will take place 9th - 12th July 2017 at Conference Aston, which is at Aston University, Birmingham, UK. ICUP will be calling for papers in the summer. Follow @icup_2017 on Twitter for the latest announcements.

www.icup2017.org.uk



New spring traps approved

The Spring Traps Approval (Variation) (England) Order 2016

The Spring Traps Approval (Variation) (England) Order 2016 is now in force. As of the 24th March the industry should be aware of a number of newly approved traps that feature.

This Order adds three types of spring trap to those approved for use in England: the KORO Large Rodent Double Coil Spring Snap Trap, the KORO Rodent Snap Trap and the Procull Trap.

www.pestcontrolnews.com/spring-traps-approval-variation-england-order-2016



BASIS appoints new chief executive

Following his appointment as Acting Chief Executive Officer in November 2015, Stephen Jacob has now been appointed CEO of BASIS Registration Ltd, the independent standards setting and auditing organisation for the pesticide, fertiliser and allied industries.

BASIS Chairman Chris Clarke said, "We are delighted that Stephen has emerged from an open selection process as our new Chief Executive...we look forward to working with Stephen and the senior team to develop a strategy that will ensure BASIS Registration meets the needs of its members."

www.pestcontrolnews.com/basis-appoints-new-chief-executive



CRRU Ireland launches NEW Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Ireland has recently released its Best Practice Requirements document.

It is a thorough and detailed read, essential for any pest controller conducting pest control services in Ireland.

Download: www.pestcontrolnews.com/downloads-resources
Email: office@crru.ie



Tick surveillance scheme

The tick surveillance scheme, set up by Public Health England (PHE) in 2005, is the only scheme that records tick distributions on a national scale.

The main aims of the scheme are to:

- promote the surveillance of ticks in Great Britain
 - monitor tick distribution and seasonality on a nationwide scale
 - determine the diversity of ticks infesting humans and animals
 - detect exotic or unusual tick species
- Individuals are invited to assist in the scheme by sending in any ticks collected, along with details, on a downloadable record sheet.

www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-surveillance-scheme



The taste of sweet success

Last June PCN reported that Stafford Borough Council had kick-started their Bee Hive project, backed by Killgerm, BASF and Bayer.

The project rehoused honey bees around three locations in the borough, so they were no longer a pest to households, schools and public areas. Since the commencement of the project thousands of bees have been successfully rehomed and begun to produce honey. Earlier this year the first batch of honey was harvested and sold throughout the local area. Profits and jars will be donated to charity and local initiatives.

www.pestcontrolnews.com/downloads-resources



CRRU UK has two new backers

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) has two new members contributing financially and providing expertise to the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime.

They are Belgagri from Belgium and Impex Europa, Spain. This takes the number of CRRU member companies to 17. As members of CRRU, they become recognised formally as participants in the stewardship regime. On its implementation taskforce, the new members are represented respectively by Antoine Trigaux and Sandra Barbosa.

www.pestcontrolnews.com/two-new-backers-brings-crru-uk-roster-17/



Check out our new look!

It's hard not to notice, but after many years of PCN providing you with the latest news, we decided to redesign the magazine to reflect the professional industry in which you work.

Along with the redesign of the magazine we have also remodelled the website to make it cleaner, brighter, more interactive and loaded with relevant information. Everything you need to know should be found on there, so go check it out:

For INSTANT news follow us on Twitter & Facebook; we will always aim to be the first to inform you!

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CRRU UK Guidance on Permanent Baiting document released

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use has recently launched an eight-page guidance document on permanent baiting.

The document provides comprehensive information answering those niggling questions in relation to permanent baiting, such as what is permanent baiting? Why is it a problem? When is permanent baiting acceptable? And what are the alternatives?

The document ends with a useful outlined protocol for permanent baiting.

Download: www.pestcontrolnews.com/downloads-resources
www.thinkwildlife.org



Products authorised by HSE for use under the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has announced that over 250 rodenticide products have been authorised for use under the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime.

Of those products 102 have been authorised for use in waste dumps and 107 for use in open areas. These are the products that will feature the product labels containing the new legally binding stewardship phrases (see pages 6-8).

Although these products have been authorised by the HSE, don't be hasty. It will take some time before these products start to appear on the shelves, but we are sure your supplier will shout about it when they do.

For the full UK authorised rodenticide product database go to:

webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/pesticides/view?objectId=10116

Everything you need to know about the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime

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Post 1st April 2016





NEW PRODUCT LABELS

The HSE has now begun issuing product authorisations for professional anticoagulant rodenticides for use in and around buildings, outdoors in open areas and waste dumps, which have a requirement for compliance by both suppliers and users, with the conditions of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime.

The legally binding requirements will be seen on the product labels of the anticoagulant rodenticides for external use and will say the following:

To be used only by professional users holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements.

Read the label before use. Using this product in a manner that is inconsistent with the label may be an offence. Refer to the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice (or equivalent) for guidance.

When this product is supplied to a user for the control of rodents, it shall only be supplied to a professional user holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements.

Variation in pack sizes, company branding and labelling policies among authorization holders and marketing companies mean that while the above text will not change, a standard format for all labels is not possible. However, all efforts will be made by suppliers to make the text prominent.

Products carrying the new labels will soon start to hit shelves for distribution; however there will be a phase-in period where both old and new stock, carrying different labels, will be available to purchase. Between now and 1st October 2016, remaining stocks of rodenticides with pre-stewardship labels will sell out and be succeeded by new stocks of stewardship-label products, carrying the legally binding text.

Anticoagulant rodenticides that do not carry the new labels (old stock) will still be available to purchase up until 30th September 2016 or until stocks run out. However, many suppliers may already be applying the stewardship point-of-sale controls before this date across all products.

HOW TO PURCHASE ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES THAT HOLD NEW PRODUCT LABELS

Proof of competence will need to be provided in the form of a certificate showing that you have taken a CRRU-approved training course and passed the necessary exam. The exhaustive list of CRRU-approved training courses can be found here: www.thinkwildlife.org/list-of-training-and-certification. Courses are provided by different training bodies and hyperlinks are provided on the CRRU website directing the viewer to the training provider's website for further detailed information.

Or

Members of CRRU-approved farm assurance schemes that have a structured and documented rodent control plan and listed here: www.thinkwildlife.org/list-of-approved-farm-assurance-schemes will be classed as competent for purchase of rodenticides.

Remember

Contact your rodenticide supplier in plenty of time, to ensure you have everything in place with them in terms of stewardship compliance, to avoid being caught out when the new labels arrive.



It doesn't stop there. You must also complete the relevant point-of-sale declaration form to prove to your supplier that you hold approved certification.

This can be done now and the relevant form can be found here: www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads_resources/. A detailed question & answer guide is also available and will lead you through the process.

HOW DO I REPORT RODENTICIDE ABUSE?

Firstly, it is not the job of CRRU to police cases of abuse or misuse. It is a matter for the appropriate government agencies.

There has been, for many years, a procedure for the reporting of incidents. This remains in place and is the first port of call for all incidents.

It is a website and hotline operated by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate of HSE (www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/reporting.htm).

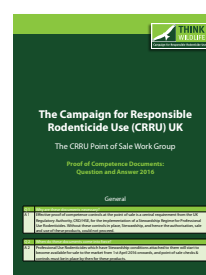
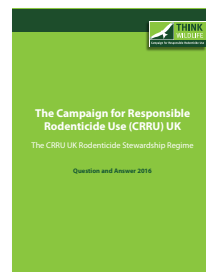
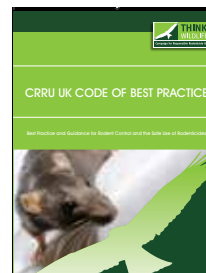
The relevant sector is called the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS). An "incident" does NOT need to involve a dead animal or bird.

Illegally placed bait is also an "incident" and will be investigated by government operatives from Natural England and/or other agencies.

There is an online form: webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/concernsform/answerQuestionnaire?qid=594147 and a telephone hotline number – 0300 003 1647.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Importance
1st April 2016	Products with new labels for compliance with the UK Stewardship Regime will begin to enter the market. For these products proof of competence will be required in the form of a certificate from a CRRU-approved training course OR membership of a CRRU-approved farm assurance scheme.
30th September 2016	Distributors will no longer be able to sell anticoagulant rodenticides that do not have the new labels for compliance with the UK Stewardship Regime. Anyone who does not hold approved certification or is not a member of a CRRU-approved farm assurance scheme will be unable to purchase professional use anticoagulant rodenticides.
31st March 2017	If you possess anticoagulant rodenticides with the old labels that were bought pre 30th September 2016, these must be used up or safely disposed of by 31st March 2017.



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

The CRRU UK code of best practice document was composed in order to help you comply with the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime and is packed full of comprehensive information in relation to rodent control.

To obtain your copy go to: pestcontrolnews.com/downloads_resources/ or e: office@thinkwildlife.org

CRRU has also compiled two useful Q&A documents available for download which provide more detailed information in relation to the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime. These are available to download at:

www.pestcontrolnews.com/downloads_resources/
www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads_resources

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THE REGIME IS WORKING?

The success of the regime will be monitored in several ways, including assessing the levels of anticoagulant residues in the livers of UK barn owls; conducting periodic knowledge, attitudes and practices surveys and by monitoring the breeding success of selected UK barn owl populations.

The regime is supported by all companies holding authorisations for rodenticides in the UK, comprising:

- Antec
- Babolna-bio
- Barrettine Environmental
- BASF
- Belgagri
- Bell Laboratories
- Bayer Cropscience
- Impex Europa
- Killgerm Group
- Liphatech
- Lodi UK
- Pelgar International
- Pelsis
- Rentokil Initial
- Syngenta
- Unichem
- Zapi

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www.pestcontrol.basf.co.uk

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Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.



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To be in with a chance of winning a TC7 Telescopic Camera, send us your selfie holding the latest edition of PCN magazine.

Be adventurous; the more obscure and creative the location of the selfie, the better your chance of winning.

To enter is easy, you can either: Post it on our Facebook page, Tweet us your entry using @pestcontrolnews or e-mail it to: editor@pestcontrolnews.com. The winning selfie will be selected by a panel of selfie experts and published in the next edition of PCN.

CLOSING DATE: MIDNIGHT 31 JULY 2016

PCN

Important updates to the hazardous waste regulations

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From 1st April 2016 there were two important changes made to the Hazardous Waste Regulations; here is a summary of the changes:

- **Producers of hazardous waste in England will no longer need to notify the Environment Agency of their premises.**
- **The format of the unique consignment note code, which appears on every consignment note, will change.**

REGISTRATION

- Customers who produce or store 500kg or more of hazardous waste per year will **NO LONGER** need to register their premises with the Environment Agency.
- These changes only apply to England. It does not affect premises in Wales, who should continue to register with Natural Resources Wales.

CONSIGNMENT NOTE CODE FORMAT

A completed consignment note must accompany hazardous waste when moved from any premises. The consignment note and the way it is completed will change:

- To accommodate the removal of premises registration, the format of the consignment note code will change regardless of the amount of hazardous waste produced, stored or handled.
- If waste is produced in England, the first six characters of the consignment note code (currently the premises registration number) must be replaced by the first six letters or numbers (not symbols) of the business name, for example: Pest Control News could be PESTCO. This format must be consistently used on each consignment note.
- 'EXEMPT' will no longer be used.
- The second set of characters will continue to be five numbers or letters of the waste producer/holder's choosing. E.g. 00001 and sequenced to increase numerically for each subsequent consignment note. This may, on a few specified occasions, be followed by an additional letter.
- If waste is moved from Wales into England, the consignment note code will not be



changed. Welsh producers will still be required to register their premises with Natural Resources Wales and use this in their consignment note code. If the waste is moved from England into Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland the consignment note code will need to use the new format.

- There is further guidance on Gov.uk.

SIC CODE

The requirement for the SIC code on the consignment note has changed. The Environment Agency currently accept SIC 2003, SIC 2007 or NACE (Nomenclature of Economic Activities) on the consignment

note. The change in the Regulations from 1 April 2016, specifying SIC 2007, will match the requirements for non-hazardous waste. The Environment Agency currently has a Regulatory Position to allow different SIC publications and the use of NACE codes to be used; they will continue to allow the use of NACE.

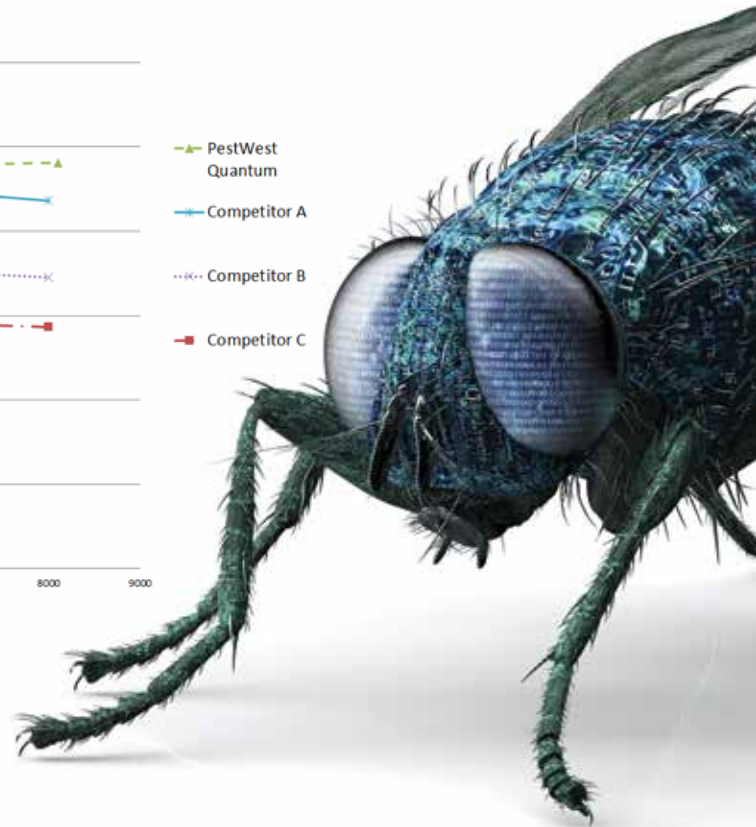
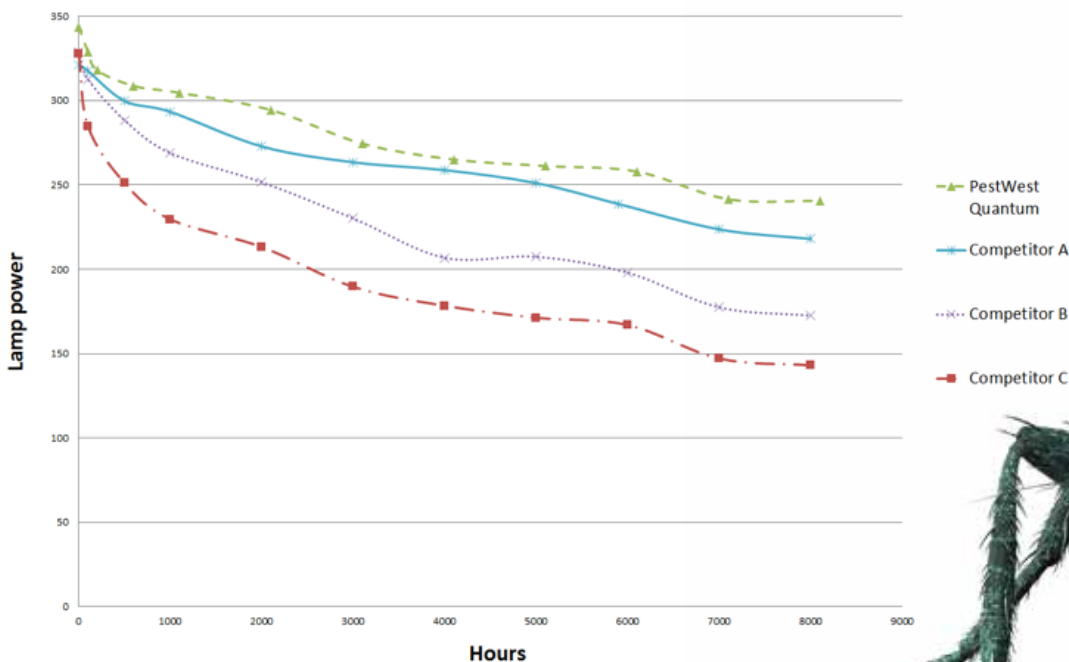
Choosing an efficient electronic fly trap

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Question: Are all fly traps of the same lamp wattage (e.g. 30 watts) the same?

Answer: The simple answer is no.

Average power of 15WT8 18" lamps



There are now many choices out there in the market place and sometimes it can make choosing the right trap for a given situation more difficult. Sometimes pest controllers may think that they need a 30 watt fly trap for a standard situation, such as in a kitchen or restaurant. But there are differences between brands and models. The efficacy of a trap in terms of catching flying insects, and the efficiency of the trap in terms of electrical consumption are often overlooked.

When installing electronic fly traps in greater numbers the electrical efficiency of the traps should not be ignored, because the savings to the end user can be quite considerable. We only have to look at general lighting to see how LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) have taken over the market in such a short period of time, which is 100% driven by energy efficiency savings.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FLUORESCENT LAMPS

First of all let's look at the lamps used in electronic fly traps. There are now many insect attracting fluorescent lamps available on the market today, giving the pest controller many choices. The most important factors when considering the choice of fluorescent tube is not only how high the initial ultraviolet (UV) light output is, but how well does the lamp maintain this output over a period of a year.



The UV output of all insect attracting fluorescent lamps will reduce over time due to a slow degradation of the fluorescent powder coatings on the inside of the glass tube. The rate of this degradation varies between manufacturers; higher quality lamps have the slower degradation rates compared with cheaper brands, due to the design of the lamp and the quality of the materials used.

Lower UV output levels in lamps used in electronic fly traps will reduce the attraction to flying insects. A recent study compared the UV output over time of various lamps on the market and revealed there were vast differences in both initial output and the degradation rate (see graph).

BALLAST AND LAMP SYSTEM MATCHING

It is also extremely important for the lamp and ballast employed in an electronic fly trap to be correctly matched. This ensures that the lamp starts and runs in the optimum rated electrical characteristics (Lamp Voltage, Lamp Current & Lamp Power), which in turn ensures that the lamp provides the optimum UV output and lamp life.

The testing in the graph to the left was performed using magnetic ballasts which were matched to the lamps, and therefore operated them at their correct 15 watts operating lamp power.

A 30W electronic fly trap which was made in China was recently tested. The unit was a glue board type model with two 15W T8 18" tubes employed.

The lamps were powered by an electronic ballast which was not branded and was also made in China. When the lamp power was accurately measured using a power analyser the lamps were found to be running at 10.9 watts and 10.7 watts, respectively.

This 30 watt fly trap is in fact a 21.6 watt fly trap. The ballast is clearly not matched to the lamps and is under-driving them; the UV output from the lamps will be around 70% of that of a correctly matched lamp / ballast system.

If you then couple that to inferior output tubes, such as competitor C lamps, you will find that the UV output could be as low as 54% of a suitably matched high quality lamp and ballast employed in a fly trap after 1000hrs operation (6 weeks).

OVERALL EFFICIENCY OF THE TRAP – ELECTRICAL CONSUMPTION

Unfortunately, fitting tubes of lower quality and UV output does not reduce the electrical consumption of the unit, as this is governed by the ballast employed as well as other electrical components within the trap design.

As a general rule, magnetic ballasts are typically 60-70% efficient and electronic ballasts are typically 80-90% efficient. What does this mean? Well it means that lamps/ballast convert most of the electricity into UV light and the rest is wasted as heat. So the most efficient fly traps will generally be the ones fitted with electronic ballast, from an electrical consumption point of view.

The cost benefits from using fly traps with electronic ballast are quite considerable when you are considering a reasonable number of fly traps per site. This in turn reduces the environmental impact and reduces electricity bills.

Energy Savings

Electronic Fly Trap Type	Magnetic Ballast 2 x 15W	Electronic Ballast 2 x 15W	Savings
Electrical Power Consumption	38 watts	32 watts	
Cost per day	14.5p	12p	2.5p
Cost per year	£52.93	£43.20	£9.73
Cost to run 10 traps per year	£529	£432	£97
Cost to run 20 traps per year	£1058	£864	£194
Cost to run 50 traps per year	£2647	£2160	£487

As you can see from the above table, the savings when installing electronic fly traps fitted with electronic ballasts can be significant, especially when the number of traps increases.

During the 10 year lifetime of these products a facility with 50 energy efficient fly traps could see savings of up to a whopping £4870.

TRAP DESIGN

The design of fly traps has evolved over the years and we are now seeing more aesthetically pleasing designs entering the market place. One thing to remember when choosing the right trap is that,

‘eye catching, does not always mean fly catching!’

The more effective designs will have good openings to allow the UV light from the tubes to escape into the room and allow the flies to enter the trap and be caught on the adhesive board or high voltage grid etc.

Some designs compromise this to suit certain situations which are more sensitive to the presence of a fly trap, such as front of house areas in restaurant, etc.

CONCLUSION

Choosing the right electronic fly trap for a given situation is important and careful consideration should be taken to look at the quality of the product and components within. Choosing a product with an electronic ballast will reduce energy bills and result in a lower environmental impact.

Choosing a trap from a reputable manufacturer will ensure that the unit is fitted with quality components which have been designed and tested to work at their optimum performance.

The quality of the lamps employed in the traps also plays a major role in the performance of the trap and careful consideration should be taken when deciding which brand of lamps to service the trap with throughout its operating life.

Zika virus raises awareness of mosquitoes and Mosquito Watch in the UK

Play your part by contributing to Mosquito Watch

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The mosquito-borne Zika virus has dominated headlines around the world. There have been thousands of Zika virus cases reported in Central and South America. Infections are now being reported in Europe, the United States and farther afield. Those of you that have followed news reports will know about the concerns regarding

Zika virus infection in pregnant women and the suspected link to microcephaly ('small head') in babies.

The main vector of Zika virus is *Aedes aegypti*, which is not present in the UK. However, it is an example of an invasive mosquito species and everyone involved in the public health pest control industry should maintain vigilance regarding invasive pest species, due to the potential for transmission of pathogenic microorganisms that threaten public health.

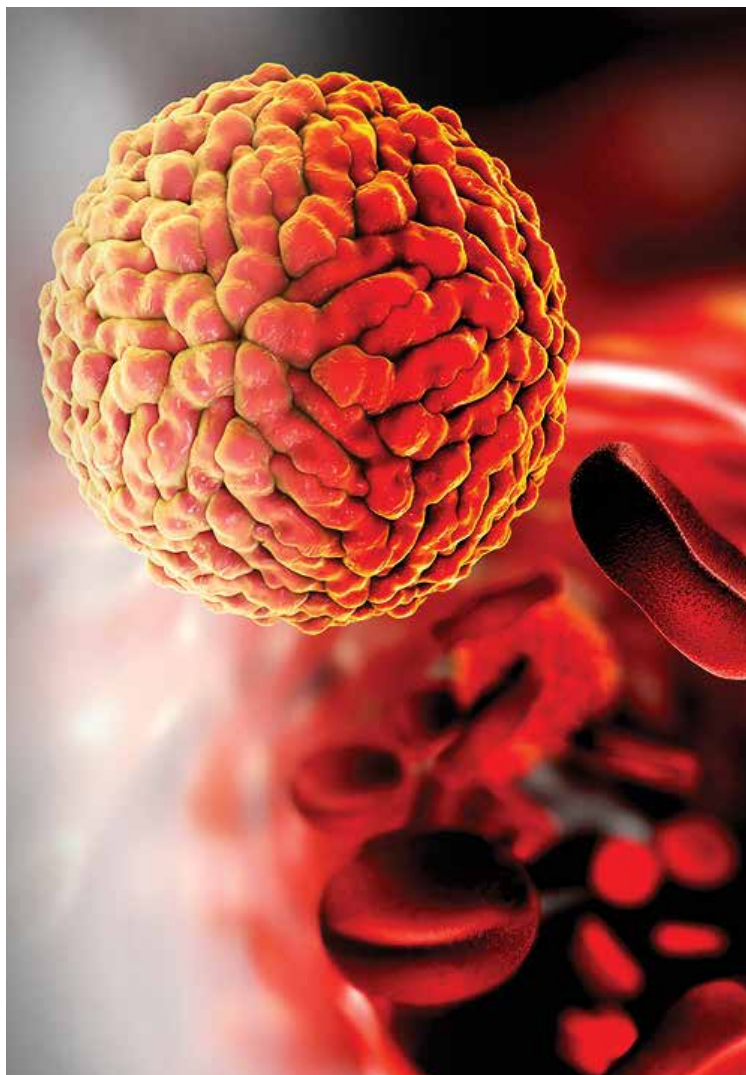
Mosquito Watch is urging you to send in samples and any mosquito species should be submitted, in order to add to the understanding of mosquito biting nuisance in the UK.

If you have a mosquito to send for identification place them in a crushproof container and send to: Mosquito Watch c/o Killgerm Chemicals Limited, PO Box 2, Ossett, West Yorkshire, WF5 9NA. Don't forget to go on the Mosquito Watch website to fill in a report form as well (www.cieh.org/policy/npap_mosquito_watch.html).

If you come across any mosquitoes, send them to Mosquito Watch, even if you think it is a UK species of mosquito. Part of the work of Mosquito Watch (in conjunction with Public Health England and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) is to obtain a better understanding of the incidence of nuisance mosquitoes that are biting humans in the UK and make entries into a dedicated database to record the incidences of mosquitoes nationally.

As well as the mosquito species we already have in the UK, the possibility exists for the importation of exotic mosquitoes that could cause a greater biting nuisance and may become involved in the transmission of infectious diseases. These species should be spotted before they take hold and for Mosquito Watch to act as an 'early warning system'. The efforts of pest controllers, environmental health practitioners and members of the public are required. Be vigilant!

www.cieh.org



PCN



Photographer: April Nobile - from www.AntWeb.org

Invasive Garden Ant *Lasius neglectus* confirmed in East Sussex

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The discovery of the invasive garden ant *Lasius neglectus* in East Sussex is of vital importance for all pest controllers. The multi-queened, super-colony forming and difficult to treat pest ant is certainly now 'out there' in the urban environment, well away from a known area of activity at a National Trust site in Gloucestershire.

Alan Drewett of Enviro-Pest Solutions, who has been working on *Lasius neglectus* in the Lower Meads area of Eastbourne, says,

"It was 2010 when I first came across what we now know is *Lasius neglectus* and I can distinctly remember the ants causing physical and mental nuisance for the occupiers of a number of well-maintained flats.

"The ants were walking over and inside electrical equipment, including a laptop; which looking back is rather distinctive behaviour. I wasn't exactly sure of the species at the time because *Lasius neglectus* wasn't really on the radar of public health pest control.

"I remember another flat owner reporting the ants trailing over their bed and pillows. I applied Maxforce Quantum gel bait inside insect bait

stations in all the affected areas, located as close to the ant pheromone trails as possible. The magnitude of the ant activity inside and outside the flat was staggering; their sheer numbers were incredible. It was particularly unnerving seeing the ants trailing over the head of the bed in one of the flats I was working in."

Alan encountered a similar ant problem in 2014 with another client, in a number of the client's properties. The affected properties were along the same road, about 200 metres from where the previously described ant problem was reported. The ants were in great numbers, including numerous columns of ants that were following trails up the mature trees lining the road. The ants were probably 'farming' the aphids in amongst the leaves for their sugary secretions i.e. 'honeydew'.

The paving slabs along the public footpath on this same road and adjoining roads revealed numerous piles of excavated materials from beneath the slabs. The gardens of the blocks of flats in one of the adjacent roads showed numerous shallow but definite ant hills.

Alan said, "I'd previously received advice that the ants in question could be the brown ant *Lasius brunneus*, but this now turns out not to be the case. Fortunately, I recently introduced

entomologist Clive Boase to this problem and he told me of his hunch that the ants might be *Lasius neglectus*. I acted quickly and sent samples to him for identification. Clive reported his findings to me immediately and was confident that the ants were the invasive species *Lasius neglectus*."

Alan described how discussions with Clive made him aware that there is also current *Lasius neglectus* activity in a National Trust site in Gloucestershire, which was noted approximately 6-7 years ago. The understanding is that these ants could have come in to Europe via a horticultural route, such as the soil of potted plants.

The extent of *Lasius neglectus* activity in Eastbourne is unknown at the moment. Alan is currently collecting ants to the East, West and North of the *Lasius neglectus* areas that he has been treating, to see how far the ant colonies have spread.

When asked about the potential impact this species could have, Alan said, "It's fascinating on one level, yet unnerving when considering the potential impact! There must be more colonies of *Lasius neglectus* out there that just haven't been confirmed yet."



Fumigation concession for grain export is made official

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Revised authorisations for the aluminium phosphide pellet and tablet insecticide fumigants have been issued and will shortly be uploaded onto the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) website.

This is very good news for grain fumigators using fumigation tablet and pellet insecticides. It is good news because the concession that was in place, allowing these products to be applied loose and direct to raw commodities (grain) for export outside of the EU, has now been made official as part of amendments to product approvals.

The history behind this starts with a plant protection restriction being applied, which did not allow tablets or their spent residues to come into contact with food or feed. This was problematic because it meant that commodity

shipments for export (e.g. grain to North Africa) could not be treated in line with existing contractual obligations. The economic impacts that could have occurred due to this cannot be understated.

Action to address this was taken and the UK regulatory authority (CRD) granted a concession for grain/raw commodity fumigations, following careful negotiations with the Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Standards (RAMPS). Stock was supplied to fumigators for use without the aforementioned plant protection restrictions, under specific conditions and this concession is still in place until:

30th June 2016 (supply)
30th September 2016 (use)

The specific conditions – for commodity shipments only - and contractual obligations must be shown.

This was a great move but fumigators were quite rightly concerned that the concession was soon coming to an end, without any news on what the future may hold beyond the relevant dates. Thankfully, RAMPS was working exceptionally hard behind the scenes. Successful discussions

have resulted in the concession now being made official, by way of product authorisations being amended.

We should also take time to note that the occasionally maligned 'authorities' have acted sensibly in all this by listening to industry feedback and achieving an outcome that is practical and grounded in common sense, so a 'thank you' is due to CRD as well as RAMPS.

The product authorisations themselves will be amended to include the new highlighted text below:

- (2) Pellets or their spent residue must not be allowed to come into contact with food or feed;
- (3) Other specific restriction (2) does not apply in the following circumstances
 - (a) Treated unprocessed food or feedstuffs are destined for export outside of the E.U.

and

- (b) The commodity is treated under contract from the destination country and the sanitary/phytosanitary requirements of the importing country specifies that direct insertion of pellets/ tablets is required.

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The **RATIMOR®** product line includes a wide variety of rodenticidal baits for successful rodent control in every possible situation. Baits are available with the following active ingredients: *Bromadiolone*, *Brodifacoum* and *Difenacoum* or simply without active ingredient for monitoring.



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- Trays
- Wax Blocks
- Wax Blocks with wire



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The non-toxic product specially manufactured for the detection of rodent activity indoors and around.

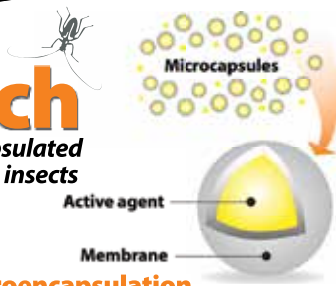
Effect®

Microtech

Highly effective microencapsulated insecticide against crawling insects i.e. cockroaches, ants, ...

4 key advantages:

- **Prolonged effect** ⇒ microencapsulation
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- **Permethrin (8%)** ⇒ killing agent
- **PBO (8%)** ⇒ enhanced efficiency of the active agent



- ✓ Contains three active agents, which act interconnected and thus enhance the effect of the product!
- ✓ The microcapsule guards the active agents from external influences, which is why the product is efficient even in tough weather conditions while being more user-friendly at the same time.
- ✓ The active agents are released from the microcapsule gradually and evenly, which is why the product is effective for at least 6 months.
- ✓ The microcapsules stick to the body of the insect, which then takes them to its nest, thus destroying the entire population.
- ✓ A stable formula, since the microcapsules are evenly spread over the entire volume.



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So you want to drive **quality traffic** to your website and create a buzz about your business?

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There are a couple of SEO friendly strategies which you can adopt which will not only boost your traffic numbers, but make sure that the people who are visiting your website are engaged and interested in your business. Here's what you can do...

PAID FOR ADVERTISING

Paid for advertising is probably the most obvious tool to drive traffic, but it does mean that you're going to have to dig into your wallet! The most popular options of paid advertising online are Google AdWords, social media and display advertising. All these services have their pros and cons; however it's a great way to get direct, engaged and interested traffic to your website.

Paid advertising can be expensive and it's hard to pin down an exact figure of what you're initially going to spend. It all comes down to competition against who you're bidding against and what commercial goals you have set.

Paid advertising such as Google AdWords can also be extremely complicated and time consuming as it needs to be checked on a daily basis. It's advised that if this is something that you want to pursue as part of your marketing you either read up on the management and make time in your day to service the accounts or look at hiring a reputable and approved agency to do it for you.

OPTIMISE FOR MOBILE DEVICES & LOAD TIME

The first point of call to boost your web traffic is

to look at your website. You have to remember that your website is your digital shopfront and it's the first impression your customer gets of your business. You need to check whether your website is responsive and easily adapts to being viewed on mobile and tablet devices. In May 2015 Google announced that more Google searches took place on mobile devices than on computers in 10 countries, including the US and Japan. By having a fully optimized site it allows your visitor to easily navigate around and it also gives your website a helping hand in its SEO rankings.

Another point which needs addressing with your website is its load speed. No one likes waiting, especially if they have rats climbing out of the walls and they need a pest controller ASAP!



The way we drive traffic to our websites has changed over the years. Search engines, such as Google, have adapted and evolved their search algorithms so old techniques, such as keyword stuffing and back links, are now frowned upon. If tactics like this are discovered on your website, search engines can demote your rankings or in the worst case scenario even block your site from their results pages.

Having a fast load time for your website allows your customer to get to the info they need in a timely manner. You should be able to discuss this with your web provider. Some key elements to decreasing your load speed are to reduce the file size of your images, manage documents better and also look at your navigation structure to make sure that it's linear and easy to navigate.

CONTENT IS KING

Content Marketing has been the buzz word for online marketing for the past few years and still remains one of the key aspects of any online marketing campaign. Content Marketing is the focus of "creation and distribution of valuable and relevant content to attract and drive profitable customer action". Content can be a blog, a video, a meme or an infographic.

The main thing is that it's relevant and of value to your specific audience. You can have a lot of fun with creating unique content that you can post on your website and social media pages. Plus it doesn't have to cost a fortune. There are plenty of free infographic and meme generators out there (memegenerator.net). Video editors on your smartphones can also be an easy and affordable way to create videos.

KEYWORDS

Long gone are the days of stuffing your website with keywords and repeating them religiously in your web copy. Google's search algorithms are far more intelligent these days and can quickly identify black hat SEO techniques and demote your website rankings.

It's advised that taking a long tail SEO approach to your copywriting not only reduces risk but it can increase the probability of attracting higher converting traffic. Long tail SEO looks more at phrases that your potential customers are likely to be searching. For example "bed bugs pest controller in London" or "how to avoid a rat infestation". This is opposed to just focusing on singular to phrases like "Rat" or "Pest". One great way to factor in this SEO technique is to write relevant and useful blog articles.

SOCIAL MEDIA

This year Facebook is 12 years old and who would've predicted its success or the impact of which social media is having on society? Social media can also play a serious part in your business. You can utilise these platforms to connect with customers and promote your business. The important thing is to have fun with it and avoid the hard sell approach. By posting your website link on your social media profiles this is a perfect way to direct referral traffic. Also, if you adopt more Content Marketing into your strategy you can reuse it for your social media and link it back to your website.

GET INVOLVED

The line between offline and online marketing is starting to become blurred. There are plenty of offline marketing activities which you can mix with online marketing to drive traffic to your website. One of the great aspects of working in the pest control industry is the number of annual events. By attending events such as PPC Live and Pest Tech, you can join in on the social buzz online and push your brand and website to a wider reach. This also promotes that your business is keeping up-to-date within the industry.

EMAIL MARKETING

Using emails as part of your marketing is great way to stay in touch with your customer but you can also use it to drive traffic to your website. Emails are a great way to repurpose blogs, videos and any other content which you have generated for your website.

One thing that you need to bear in mind is that you don't overuse emails and bombard your customers with relentless emails about every single update. Creating something like a monthly newsletter can be a suitable great way to keep your customers updated and drive traffic to your website.





Lasius brunneus

Brown Ant

Know your enemy

It appears that samples and enquiries regarding Lasius brunneus (the 'brown ant') have been on the increase in the UK.

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Due to limited experience of *Lasius brunneus* control in the UK pest control industry it seems that control of this species has been proving problematical.

With reports of failed treatments, mixed success rates with ant gels / baits and a limited amount of technical advice available, it would appear some help is needed.

PCN has contacted technical experts in Germany, who have over a decade of experience regarding *Lasius brunneus* biology and control, in order to provide you with the necessary help.

LASIUS BRUNNEUS RECORDS

It is understandable that misidentification can occur as *L. brunneus* is closely related to the common black or garden ant. However, *L. brunneus* is regarded as a tree dwelling species, so the association with wood is a bit of a giveaway.

In recent years it has been spotted in properties in the south of England, indicating that perhaps it has changed its habits to become more closely associated with urban environments. Published records show it has also been recorded from central and southern English counties, from Essex to Shropshire, including Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Feedback from insect identification services indicates that this species is also being found as far north as the North West (Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside), so the distribution is more widespread than many realise.

Apart from *L. niger*, *L. brunneus* is now the most commonly submitted sample of the genus *Lasius*. This fact in itself suggests that *L. brunneus* is on the increase.

LOCATIONS FOUND AND TIMINGS OF SIGHTINGS

Initial sightings were in attics with wooden beams however, *L. brunneus* has been found in other locations, including kitchens, downstairs utility rooms, bathrooms, ground floor bungalow, skirting boards, door frames, under floorboards (in a house where a joist was badly damaged), a University campus and a nursery ceiling.

In terms of timing, the earliest reports of *Lasius brunneus* have been from January and February. This shows that although they are most commonly noticed in early springtime (due to mating flights) workers can in some cases be seen even earlier. *L. brunneus* can also be

active later in the year, with samples received during September, November and even December.

IDENTIFICATION

Using an entomological key to identify *L. brunneus* is the reliable way to do things. Without access to a key, simple features that can be seen 'in the field' with a hand lens include:

1. Contrastingly bicolored: the alitrunk and petiole (the front end!) are lighter in colour than the gaster (the back end!).
2. The petiole (the 'node' in the middle) has a distinct indentation at the top, almost as though it has been chipped to leave a notch.

(Technical Editor note: Watch out for *Lasius neglectus* too, see page 15).

BROWN ANT CONTROL

It is worth noting that this 'single queen' species is able to build up large colonies, so swift application of control methods is recommended. The mating flight ('swarming') of queens and males inside buildings starts in early spring and this is a typical sign of activity to look out for when conducting inspections.

In properties, the brown ant prefers to nest in timber or insulating materials, so these are key areas to think about inspecting. There are reports that it is able to damage wooden beams so heavily that their structural integrity is no longer guaranteed, so a thorough inspection is necessary in order to establish the scale of the problem.

The key is to try and precisely detect the position of the nest. It is most likely to find the nest during swarming, which usually occurs once a year. During swarming you might see the cracks and crevices where winged ants appear from walls or ceilings. This area should be made accessible to apply insecticide through a small hole into the nesting area. It is recommended to open the whole nesting area to remove the nest after treatment. This way you make sure that the queen is not left behind and the colony cannot regenerate.

If it is not possible to detect the nest or undertake structural measures, ant gel should be used inside and outside the building, subject to label conditions. However, this method often doesn't lead to complete control of the nest.

Good luck. We urge all readers to share your experiences of this species with us.

Know your friend

This issue's article covering rat control in open spaces (see page 24) highlights the importance of working with your local Wildlife Trust in order to survey areas of suspected water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity, so that rat control measures do not impact on this protected species.

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How can pest control affect water voles?
Controlling pests such as rats may lead to accidental destruction of water vole colonies. Damage occurs when water voles are mistaken for rats, or when control methods are used carelessly.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place that a water vole uses for shelter or protection. It is also an offence to disturb a water vole while it is using such a place (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 5, Section 9[4]). Blocking water vole burrows is illegal. Placing traps or bait boxes into or in the way of water vole burrows could lead to prosecution. Offences carry a maximum penalty of £5000. The court may also take any vehicle or other equipment used to commit the offence.

THREATS TO WATER VOLES

Water voles have suffered the most dramatic decline of any British mammal in the last century. There is now only one vole for every 20 that were alive in 1900. Any activity that poses the slightest threat to water voles must therefore be undertaken with extreme care.

Water voles and their habitat are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but worryingly, information has recently come to light that illegal activity may be continuing in some parts of the country, with development and inappropriate ditch management damaging water vole burrow systems. The Wildlife Trusts will be doing all that they can to make sure that the law protecting water voles and their habitat is being effectively enforced.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you are controlling pests near water, check for signs of water voles before starting. Your local Wildlife Trust may be able to provide information on water vole presence at the site. Both water voles and rats burrow into the banks of most types of waterway. Water voles are usually restricted to within several metres of the water's edge. If in doubt, contact your local Wildlife Trust.

www.wildlifetrusts.org/

Water vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>)	
Size and shape	Water voles have rounded bodies and grow to 320g smaller than an adult male
Colour	Water voles are generally mid-brown in colour with silky fur. Dark brown or black individuals may occur, especially in uplands.
Snout, ears and tail	Water voles have short blunt snouts. Their ears are almost hidden by fur. Their furry tail is two thirds of their body length.
Burrows	4.8cm diameter burrows usually found at the water's edge or up to 3m away in the bank. Circles of short nibbled vegetation are often found around holes of the higher burrows.
Paths	Usually one main track along water's edge, with some paths pushing up into vegetation higher up the bank. Paths are normally concealed in grass and stay near the water.
Droppings	Between spring and autumn droppings are left in piles of 5-100 usually within 30cm of water. In winter droppings are dispersed. Droppings are 5-10mm long and rounded at both ends. They have a putty-like texture, with very fine plant material visible. Green, brown, purplish or black in colour. No strong odour.
Feeding remains	The diet of water voles is mainly vegetation. Water voles leave small piles of chopped vegetation (approx. 10cm long and cut at a 45 degree angle with grooved teeth-marks at ends) at feeding sites on banks.
Activity	Can be active during the day but more likely to be seen at dawn and dusk.
Footprints	Not a reliable guide.

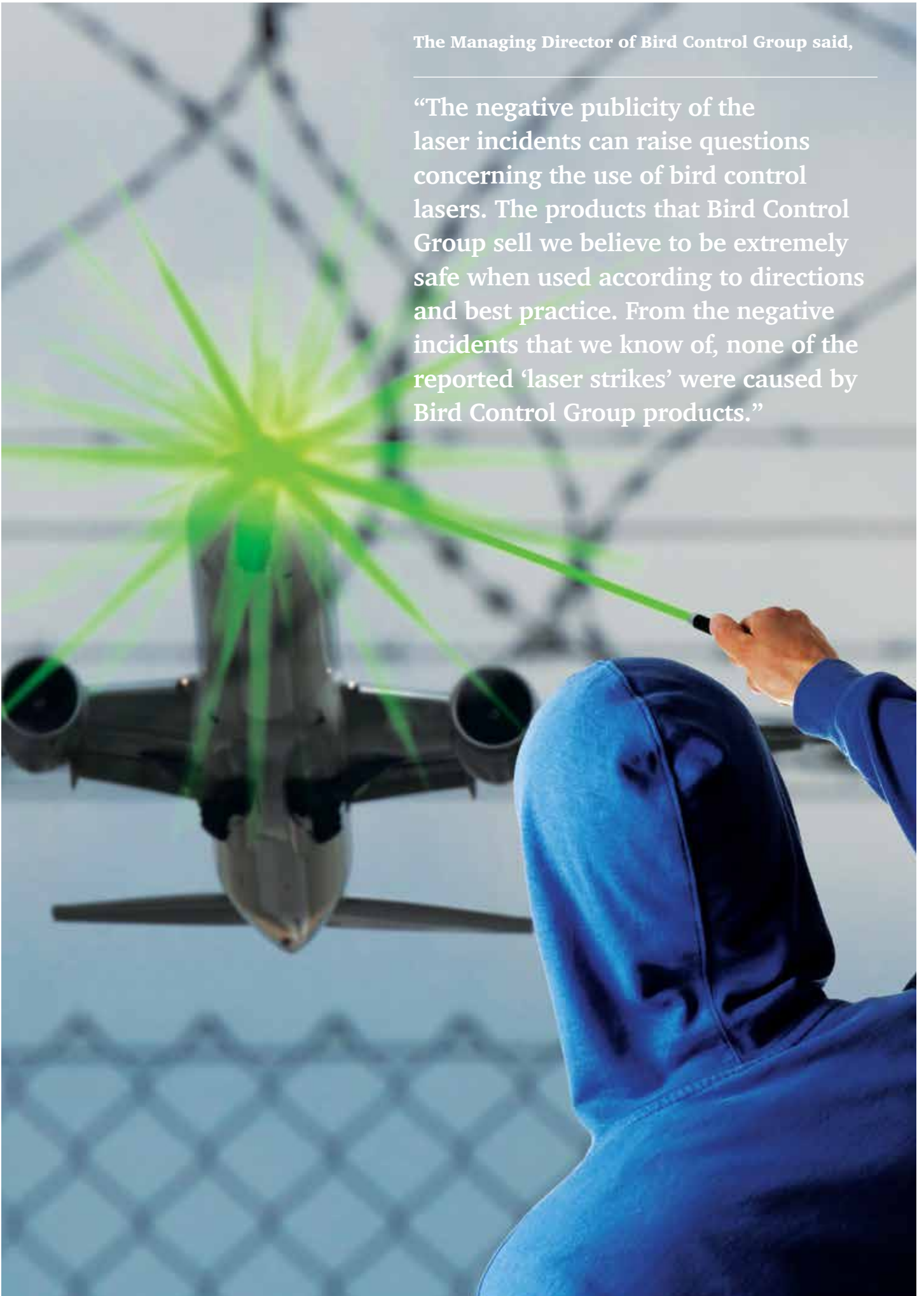
Brown rat (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	
Size and shape	Rats are bigger than water voles. Adult males weigh up to 500g.
Colour	Grey or brown with a paler underside.
Snout, ears and tail	Rats have pointed snouts and very obvious round ears. Their tails are as long as their bodies, and appear scaly and hairless.
Burrows	8-10cm diameter burrows may occur well away from the water's edge often with a heap of soil in a "fan" shape outside the entrance.
Paths	A network of well trampled paths connecting all burrows. Paths may lead across open land away from the water.
Droppings	One or several left on paths or at the water's edge. Droppings are 12-15mm long, flat at one end and pointed at the other. Slimy or very soft texture. Occasionally granular. Light brown to black in colour. Unpleasant odour of urine or ammonia.
Feeding remains	Rats are opportunist feeders and will eat a variety of foods. Remains of meals such as broken snail shells are sometimes found on the river bank.
Activity	Largely nocturnal.
Footprints	Not a reliable guide.

Arvicola amphibius

Water Vole

The Managing Director of Bird Control Group said,

“The negative publicity of the laser incidents can raise questions concerning the use of bird control lasers. The products that Bird Control Group sell we believe to be extremely safe when used according to directions and best practice. From the negative incidents that we know of, none of the reported ‘laser strikes’ were caused by Bird Control Group products.”



How to safely use laser technology in bird control

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LASER TECHNOLOGY IN BIRD CONTROL

L

Pest Control News trains its sights on the developing field of laser technology in bird control, following high-profile media coverage of laser-related incidents in the aviation industry.

Featured is important guidance on the safe use of laser technology as part of a bird control strategy, as well as advice direct from Bird Control Group. Bird Control Group uses laser beam technology, in particular the Agrilaser®, to repel birds in a number of scenarios, including on and around airports.

LASERS AS BIRD DETERRENTS

There have been many tactics used to frighten birds away, using all manner of devices, from banging dustbin lids together to use of pyrotechnics. Now the latest technology is a range of handheld laser systems which have raised interest as they can be used quietly, with minimal disturbance and attraction; provided they are handled in a professional manner.

Laser systems, if used correctly, have been shown to change behaviour in some bird species when a constant programme of use is operated. A fixed system has shown to be useful in dispersing birds from flat roof areas by projecting horizontal beams of light across large areas. Smaller handheld systems, that look similar to a torch, have also proven useful for pest controllers dispersing pigeons from the inside of warehouses or to lift off gulls/corvids from landfill sites. Some models of lasers can reach distances of between 1,000m and 2,500m and this is appealing to both the pest controller and their clients.

Whilst these tools can aid your work and provide another tool in the box, should they get into the wrong hands they could be used illegally, causing possible eye damage and injury as shown recently by press reports in the UK.

'LASER STRIKES'

A man in Hull was recently convicted of misuse by directing a green laser beam at a police helicopter pilot. He received a 20 week custodial sentence. At Heathrow Airport a Virgin Atlantic jet pilot reported being "shot in the eye" en route to New York. The jet was turned around west of Ireland after the pilot felt unwell due to the laser exposure, thus delaying the 252 passengers on board, who were then put up in a hotel for the night. It would appear that these are not rare instances; throughout the UK most airports have reported similar instances to the Civil Aviation Authority, with such reports numbering around 500 in 2015.

Steinour Henskes, Director of Bird Control Group said, "The negative publicity of the laser incidents can raise questions concerning the use of bird control lasers. The products that Bird Control Group sell we believe to be extremely safe when used according to directions and best practice. From the negative incidents that we know of, none of the reported 'laser strikes' were caused by Bird Control Group products."

LASERS, THE LAW AND BEST PRACTICE

Since 2010 a new law has been introduced against misuse of lasers. However, incidents like this will not help the pest control industry. Whilst you value these tools as an aid to your business, calls for a ban on such equipment were quick to follow, led by the police and other safety experts. In New South Wales, Australia, the state banned their use, classifying them as dangerous weapons.

Perhaps, as an industry, we should consider self-regulation and adopt safety rules and best practice guidance that would satisfy any concerns regarding the use of lasers for pest control purposes.

BIRD CONTROL GROUP ADVICE ON LASER STANDARDS AND SAFETY

The highest safety standards for use of bird control laser products are achieved by the following:

Education and training

Safe use of laser products is an essential message and prerequisite when undertaking bird control. Make sure you are trained appropriately. Bird Control Group trains users to ensure the safe application of lasers. Moreover, they are involved in the development of regulations for safe use of lasers on and around airports. For example, they have contributed to the CAP772 standard of the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

Safety features

Bird Control Group continuously strives to make their laser solutions safer. One of their features is the patented Horizon Safety System. This system detects when the laser beam is used in an uncontrolled or dangerous manner and deactivates the laser beam as a safeguard. The possibility of endangering pilots and air traffic controllers is thereby eliminated. Another important safety feature is that the products are equipped with a key lock system, to prevent unauthorized use of the equipment.

Eye-safe laser beams

Bird Control Group optimized its laser beam design, filtering the dangerous radiation out of the range of laser products. A specially designed lens system broadens the laser beam, taking away the risk of blinding, yet increasing the bird-repelling effectiveness. This results in products which are 'eye-safe'.

Highly accurate positioning

By means of a very precise motor control the automatic models and red dot sights on the handheld lasers enable users to carefully aim the laser beam before activation. In this way, projection of the laser beam in an unsafe area is prevented.

A FEW POINTERS (NICE PUN!) WHEN USING LASERS:

1. NEVER point at or near an aircraft, vehicle, or a person's head.
2. When using a laser to disburse birds, use a zig-zag movement along the ground or along a ledge towards the birds.
3. If given an option, use a wide beam rather than a pinhead version.
4. Use the laser in short bursts rather than a continuous stream.
5. When using a laser to move birds off a landfill site, check that other objects are not in the line of site of a laser.
6. Continually monitor for aircraft in the vicinity.

Remember, misuse of lasers may result in you being arrested, fined or facing a custodial sentence.

Successful rat control in an 'open space' public area

A case study from Cowbridge Beck / Daffodil Park, Billingham, Stockton on Tees
Mark berry, EHO, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

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*Frequent checking of bait points, Arras safety fencing to prohibit public access and Personal Protective Equipment to protect against *Leptospira* sp (causes Weil's disease).*

It is considered that application of anticoagulant rodenticides in open areas may pose the greatest risk to non-target species, such as birds of prey, when compared to other areas of use.

It is therefore reassuring to hear of a real case study of a successful rat treatment, in an open area, where rodenticides were applied in-line with the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) code of best practice; thus with minimal risk to wildlife. This also coincides nicely with the confirmation of stewardship label phrases (see pages 6-8).

Mark Berry, Principal Environmental Health Officer at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, describes the successful rat control programme that was undertaken.

In late March 2015, the Environmental Health team at Stockton-on-Tees council received complaints from dog walkers concerning rodent sightings near Cowbridge beck. These rodent sightings were made as the dog walkers exercised their dogs in the surrounding park area (Daffodil Park).

The area and watercourse in question is culverted for large parts through a housing estate, except for a significant length (approx. 300 metres) through a park area that is surrounded by houses.

Historically, a couple of very minor infestations had been dealt with in years gone by and the council were also aware of the recorded presence of water vole activity in the area. A few days after receiving the complaints a site survey was undertaken. Given that there were only a few complaints it was expected to find a similar situation as in years gone by.

Within two minutes of arriving on site the inspectors ran out of fingers and toes to count the brazen public performance of rats on the beck sides and in the water.

The rat activity was extremely heavy and the beck was riddled with rat burrows along the majority of the 300m length. This was perplexing, as there was no clear reason as to why this population explosion had occurred; no obvious food source was noted.

The first consideration was to speak with the Tees Wildlife Trust. The Trust regularly carried out surveys for water voles in the area and could offer specialist advice. A concern was what to do if water voles were present and how to move forward with rat control. Their findings corroborated initial observations in that there was no current water vole activity on site.

With one hurdle cleared, there remained the issue of how to safely treat such a large open space that was used regularly by dog walkers. It was also a focal point for children playing around the adjacent grass area including the beck itself, which was considered as part of the risk assessments.

In order to determine the most appropriate and efficient method of treatment an environmental assessment was undertaken, in line with stewardship requirements, and the CRRU code of best practice.

Based on the results of the environmental risk assessment and having worked through the 'risk hierarchy' it was decided that baiting burrows directly was justifiable. Bromadiolone-based whole wheat rodenticides (25g bags), labelled for outdoor use, were used. At the time, the stock used had pre-stewardship product labels for 'outdoor' use.

Some of the new stewardship product labels will feature 'open areas' which will be used for similar scenarios in the future.

The bagging helped minimise spillage of the grain bait, both in the surrounding vegetation and ultimately in the beck (an issue that affected the technicians just two days into the treatment) but also allowed retrieval of any untouched bait.

Given that the area in question was vastly open and heavily used by various members of the public, it was decided that the site (baiting area) would be secured to restrict access to people and dogs.

Undertaking the treatment in small sections was considered, to minimise the amount of temporary security fencing required and reduce the costs involved. However, this procedure would have prolonged the time needed for the treatment to be effective and thus increase the potential for exposure of rodenticide to wildlife.

In the end it was agreed that the entire 300m length of beck would be fenced off using Arras fencing, in order to treat the full area of rat activity and reduce the treatment time to a minimum. Arras fencing was duly delivered and erected, a logistical issue in itself given the lack of vehicular access to the beck-side but something that was necessary in order to prevent public access.

The installation of the fencing involved plenty of manpower and two full days to complete.

Signage was placed on the fencing advising of the activity that was being undertaken, with 24 hr contact telephone numbers to report any issues i.e. vandalism to the security fencing, rodent bodies or spilled bait. In addition to this, the Council Neighbourhood Enforcement team

was tasked to routinely visit the site during out-of-office hours to check on security.

Treatment began on Friday 1st May and given the length of area to be treated and the extent of the rodent burrows it was important to have an accurate record of each burrow that had been baited. This was done using little red marker flags, each individually numbered and placed at the entrance to each burrow.

In total, 83 individual rodent burrows were baited, initially with 2 x 25 gram bags of bait each. Daily visits to the site were carried out by pest operatives and consisted of checking the fence security, dealing with rodent bodies and bait spillages and any other site specific issues. This was recorded each day on the daily site check sheet.

Inspections of the actual burrows and bait were undertaken on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 17th and finally on the 20th May. On each visit all 83 burrows were checked for rodent activity, bait takes noted and rodenticide replenished accordingly.

The treatment from start to finish took just short of three weeks (within the 35 days reference on rodenticide labels and in the CRRU Code of Best Practice) and in that time only four rodent carcasses were found and removed from the area, surprisingly low given the level of activity that was present.

Issues encountered during the treatment period posed some challenges.

Two days after the treatment began, there were 48 hrs of exceptionally heavy rain and the water level in the beck rose by approximately 6 inches which had the effect of washing away approximately 12 baiting points that had been within that distance of the original water level.

Thankfully the rodenticide was bagged as part of the risk assessment, so each of the bags floated down the beck without any spillage and collected on a boom at the culvert entrance. This allowed us to retrieve and account for them all.

Following the heavy rain there were three to four days of warm weather.

The warm weather resulted in almost overnight eruption of beck-side vegetation growth, covering all the rodent burrows and almost obscuring the red flags. Without the flags it would have been difficult to monitor bait-take and retrieving uneaten bait.

In total the treatment lasted for three weeks, involved over 60 man hours, with 14-15kg of bait (applied as individual 25g bags of whole wheat bromadiolone-based bait) used to control the infestation and cost £4,200 for the hire, erection and dismantling of the Arras fencing.

This expense and effort was required in order to achieve successful and efficient rat control in this open area, while at the same time minimising impact on wildlife.

This was certainly a good result for all and a useful case study for those working to best practice under stewardship guidance. It can be done!

Dieting ants - carbs everyday keep disease away

Dr. Stuart Mitchell

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ANT DIET AND IMMUNITY

Within an ant colony there is always a threat of disease transmission between individuals, during their social interactions. The same social interactions also allow for disease resistance (social immunity) to develop.

Interestingly, an essential part of social immunity is a balanced diet. A recent study showed that a carbohydrate-rich diet increases immunity within ant colonies. For example, when exposed to the parasitic fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae*, ant workers reared on a high-carbohydrate diet survived ~2.8x longer in worker groups than in solitary conditions vs. workers reared on a high-protein diet who survived only ~1.3x longer in worker groups than in solitary conditions.

Further benefits of a carbohydrate-rich diet were a reduction in worker death rates when whole colonies were challenged with the pathogenic fungus. A unique mechanism, carbohydrate use may contribute to the ecological dominance of ants.

ANT MONITORING – USING ANT DIETARY REQUIREMENTS TO OUR ADVANTAGE

Understanding the significance of dietary requirements for pest ants and their colonies allows pest management professionals to take advantage of such requirements and use these against their ant foes. Difficult to locate ant activity may be discovered by conducting a non-toxic carbohydrate-baiting census i.e. a monitoring programme.

A sugar solution of 10% table sugar and distilled water can serve as a potent ant attractant, to help locate and understand previously hidden foraging patterns. The water content may also serve as an attractant during hot and dry weather. Additionally, olive oil may serve as an attractant, as well as moist canned cat food, so there are a number of options regarding attractants to be used in ant monitoring.

Several non-toxic baiting points may need to be deployed and serviced over time; therefore a diagram of the space must be maintained.

To facilitate deployment of numerous baiting points, 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes can be used. Using these tubes for ant monitoring may not be something that many people think of but it has been found to be convenient and effective, and it is recommended to try it yourself, especially when monitoring in areas where using a standard sticky trap or undertaking a visual inspection may prove difficult. Furthermore, these tubes could be used alongside your usual inspection / monitoring techniques.

1.5ML MICROCENTRIFUGE TUBES FOR ANT MONITORING

- Small size allows for easy-carry during service
- Labelling area on exterior of tube (avoid strong-smelling inks so the ants are not deterred)
- Snap cap allows preparation and preservation of non-toxic bait (Read-To-Use placements)
- See-through and graduated in 0.1 and 0.25 ml markings for non-toxic baiting assessment
- Available in different colours for contrast when deployed
- Professional appearance
- Can be washed and reused
- Place so there is no contact with children or pets

“Once ant activity is brought out of the dark, pest management professionals will see the **LITE** and solve even the most challenging pest ant problems.”

- **L**ocate ants based upon foraging behaviour
- **I**dentify ants down to species
- **T**reatment options for ant infestations based upon biology and behaviour
- **E**xclude ants to prevent re-infestations

“Once ant activity is brought out of the dark, pest management professionals will see the **LITE** and solve even the most challenging pest ant problems.”



A COMPLETE AND TARGETED APPROACH FOR BEDBUGS



Treating Mattresses & Bedding.



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Unique Azamethiphos Active new molecule for controlling bedbugs.

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Use Biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Phobi Dose contains 10% imiprothrin and 15% cyphenothrin. Phobi Larvax contains 6.10% s-methoprene. Quartz AZ contains 0.05% azamethiphos. Phobi Dose RTU contains 0.04% imiprothrin and 0.06% cyphenothrin.

Shooting in pest control

In the last issue, shooting and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was discussed, as well as the General Licence system and how it relates to any intended action using mainly air rifles.

In this issue other pests controlled using shooting techniques and larger calibre weapons will be covered, which although specialist, is becoming increasingly popular with pest controllers.

Pest controllers, often working in semi-rural or rural situations, are receiving more and more calls in relation to typically rural pests in urban situations. Such pests include rabbits, Canada geese, red foxes, wild boar and increasingly deer; particularly Muntjac deer.

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Dave Archer DKA Pest Control

For the larger species a larger weapon is normally required, although with experience and field craft it can be argued that an air rifle is still an acceptable tool for rabbit control, and in the hands of an experienced marksman at reasonably close range this certainly holds true. However, for all other species a shotgun or rifle is required.

The UK has some of the most stringent gun control laws in the world. The law in England and Wales states that you must hold a shotgun certificate for any shotguns purchased or owned.

Two references of good standing are necessary to facilitate an application. Those with previous criminal convictions may find it difficult to have an application granted. The land on which you intend to use the guns does not need to be specified, but permission (preferably in writing) from the land-owner or their acting agent is needed before any shooting is undertaken.

In England the lead shot Regulations ban the use of lead shot over all foreshore, specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and for the shooting of all ducks and geese, coot and moorhen, wherever they occur.

Remember, when fired, shotguns are loud and pellets can travel up to 300 yards if fired in an optimum direction. Although the shot has almost expired its energy at this distance it can raise complaints from others not involved in your actions.

For firearms (both rim-fire and centre-fire) a firearms certificate is required. The above in relation to obtaining references also stands. This class of firearm is different as good reason needs to be stated and have dedicated land, with landowner's permission, available in the first instance.

The weapons and the amount of ammunition that can be purchased and stored are listed

on the certificate. These weapons may only be stored in a purpose-built cabinet bolted to an internal solid wall and ammunition must be stored separately.

Only centre-fire rifles, of not less than .220 calibre, are permitted for deer control along with other requirements dependent upon species. There are additional legal requirements, firstly, the law relating to 'seasons'. The law here is complex; basically certain species have an 'open season' where they may be culled and a 'close season' when they may not.

Not only do different species of deer have different open and close seasons, but also both males (bucks or stags, dependent upon species) and females (does or hinds) have different dates. Not only must these dates be known like the Highway Code but, in addition, the sex of the quarry must be clearly identified before any shot is taken.

Illuminating devices cannot be used to shoot deer, nor can they be shot one hour after sunset or one hour before dawn (including any time in between). The target species must be listed on your firearms certificate for any form of rifle to be used; if it is not it cannot be shot by law!

It is an offence to fire any gun within 50 feet of a roadway, public footpath or bridleway if by doing so any member of the public is endangered. It is an offence to carry a loaded gun in a public place without good reason. Any gun may be considered loaded even if the bullets (or pellets in the case of air rifles) are in a detachable magazine still attached to the firearm.

It is advisable to anyone who intends to carry out deer control professionally to undertake formal recognised training with The British Deer Society. There are two levels of competence dealing with every aspect of deer control.

Even for general shooting, including small arms such as air-rifles, ANY form of training is

never wasted and will always provide useful information.

In addition, this year Scotland will be making air rifle ownership licenced under the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. In effect it may well be easier to own a shotgun in Scotland than an air-rifle.

Even if you already own a shotgun OR firearm certificate north of the border, you may well have to obtain an air-gun licence, and it is not an automatic right. Those who use their air rifle for target shooting in a small garden may well find this enjoyment is removed under the new legislation. If it all seems a little distant, think again; the legislation has already been passed. It is possible this may well follow suit for England in the foreseeable future.

Both rabbits and foxes do not enjoy the comfort of any close season and can be taken at any age or sex by authorised persons at any time. The weapon must be suitable for the intended species, as any weapon that is unsuitable can again bring animal welfare issues.

When targeted, both rabbits and foxes can be illuminated with lamps and shot at any time of day or night and at any time of year (with landowner's permission). Shooting at night must only be undertaken by highly experienced pest controllers, as target identification and distances in the field are much more difficult to ascertain than in daylight.

Rabbit control with a .22 rim-fire rifle can be hugely efficient both in daylight and evening. For rural or semi-rural work with rim-fire rifles the optimum range is 60 metres. Not only is the rifle almost silent, but it is extremely accurate in the right hands. Last summer I cleared 150 rabbits from a small-holding of some six acres in five trips. No chemicals were used, only good old-fashioned field craft, a rifle and a dog. Afterwards all those rabbits were perfectly fit to eat.



A .22 rifle is too small to use on foxes, as the capacity to wound is too great and larger calibres should be considered in the first instance. Never think fox control can only be carried out at night. Foxes are very active during daylight hours. Many foxes have been shot at dawn or dusk, again by knowing where to be and keeping still and quiet; a skill which does seem to evade many people these days.

The optimum range for a centre-fire rifle is 200 metres. Of course there are those who would state these distances as too short. However, safety and good marksmanship is paramount and increasing distances increases risk.

There are some absolutes for rifles:

ALWAYS ensure the firearm is zeroed to a point of aim that is reasonably intended to be shot at and ensure the know of the 'drop' of the bullet for increased distance or 'elevation' in the case of closer shots; especially for shorter range rim-fire weapons. Remember that shooting either up or downhill will vary the trajectory and will need to take account of this.

NEVER fire into the air. This is not as obvious as it first appears. For example, it may be tempting to fire a rim-fire rifle at a squirrel on a large tree with a huge trunk. If both the tree and squirrel are missed the bullet has the capacity to travel and injure or kill at great distances. Be warned!

ALWAYS ensure a safe backstop. In every case there must be a suitable backstop for the bullet as the travel on distance can easily be over a mile. As these larger weapons have increased lethal capacity it is vital that some form of mentoring from an experienced or qualified instructor is undertaken with formal recognized training in gun handling, (most insurance companies will insist on this anyway.)

ALWAYS gain landowner's consent. If after being shot the quarry runs before dropping (which does happen, particularly with deer control) the landowner must consent before his land is entered for retrieval. Entering any land to retrieve game without authorization is an offence; entering with a firearm is even more problematic.

For game species **ALWAYS** ensure access to a trained gundog that will locate shot animals. It is very easy (especially at dusk on woodland fringe) to lose a deer that is located very close. A trained dog will normally locate it in minutes.

Shooting is skillful and on the surface can appear complex, however with knowledge, experience and training it can be a worthwhile, enjoyable and profitable source of income.

Good hunting!

New Products

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AGRILASER LITE



AGRILASER HANDHELD

AGRILASER

Argilaser have set their laser beams to stun with its target firmly on unwanted birds! Available in three different models: Autonomic, Handheld and Lite, the Argilaser emits a beam of light, which birds perceive as a threat or oncoming danger, which causes them to fly away. Unlike any other bird control method of bird deterrence their habitat is not affected or destroyed.

At the top of the Argilaser models is the Autonomic. The Autonomic is a fully automated bird repelling system, which provides continuous monitoring. The continuous presence of the moving laser beam keeps areas free from bird.

Secondly, the Argilaser Handheld is an easy to use model with a range of up to 2,500 metres. After consistent use against birds the Argilaser Handheld can provide fast and long lasting results.

Finally the Argilaser Lite is the ideal compact solution for bird control. This pocketable piece of kit has a range of up to 1,000 metres and works in light conditions of 20,000 Lux or less.

www.killgerm.com

AGRILASER AUTONOMIC



EFFECT PROFESSIONAL ULTIMUM EC

This effective insecticide is fast acting with a quick knock down and ideal for the control of both crawling and flying insects. Ultimium EC contains tetramethrin and PBO which performs well in areas of high infestations. The Effect Ultimium EC is water soluble and can be used also for ULV applications.

www.en.unichem.si



BARRENTINE ROMAX - GLUE SOLVENT

Romax Glue Solvent is ideal for the removal of insects from glue boards for identification; it can also be used to clean hands and surfaces which have come into contact with the glue. It is also a key product to have for the responsible use of glue boards and traps so that non target species can be quickly released.

www.barrettine.com



Romax Rodent Feed contains a highly effective synthetic peanut butter formulation which can be loaded onto live traps. This paste formulation allows for easy application and effective grab onto the trap to enhance the catch rate.

www.barrettine.com

BARRENTINE ROMAX - RODENT FEED



BABOLNA - BIOPREN 6EC

Biopren 6EC is a triple threat insect growth regulators (IGR) product. Its three ingredients work in separate ways to produce a highly effective insecticide. Its main ingredient, S-methoprene IGR, disrupts the insect's life cycle and prevents it from developing into an adult. The second ingredient, natural pyrethrum, provides a quick flush-out and knock-down. Finally, PBO enhances the performance and efficacy of the IGR. Biopren 6EC performs well on bed bugs and fleas.

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New Products

Kit Maintenance

BASC advice on airgun maintenance

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Always with a keen eye on safety in the pest control industry and working to utilise credible and reliable sources of information, Pest Control News is pleased to share expert guidance from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) regarding the maintenance of airguns.

1: AIRGUN MAINTENANCE

What is the best way for me to clean my air rifle after days hunting or target shooting?

Before cleaning your air rifle, always make sure the rifle is empty of any pellets that may have been left in the gun. First of all, keep the gun pointing in a safe direction that wouldn't allow the pellet to ricochet, cock the bolt back on the rifle and remove the magazine. Push the bolt home and discharge a shot in the safe direction - this will allow you to be sure the rifle is empty and safe to work on. Once shot, place the safety catch in the safe position.

2: BREECH SEAL

Now the gun is in a safe position, you can check for any damage to probe seals. Cock the bolt to the rear and look through the magazine port. At the end of the probe, you will find the breech rear sealing 'o' ring fitted to the front of the probe.

Take a look at the seal to check for any clipping of the seal. If there is damage, this will hinder the optimum performance of your rifle. With the use of a small spike or hook, remove the damaged seal and replace with new seal that is provided in the kit sent out with your rifle. Once fitted, lubricate the seal with a very small amount of oil. It is best to do this on a regular basis. Once finished, shoot the rifle in a safe direction to return hammer to the closed position.

3: SURFACE RUST

If your gun has a small amount of surface rust upon the blued metal components of your rifle, you can remove this by using a small amount of double O steel wool and a drop of oil added to the affected areas. With a very gentle rubbing motion over the affected area, this should remove the surface rust without removing the gun's blueing (this must be a very gentle motion).

4: GENERAL DIRT AND DUST

With general dirt and dust, the best way to clean your rifle is to give the whole rifle a good wipe down with a soft lint free cloth to remove any big particles of dirt or dust and then, using a new cloth and a drop of oil, give the whole gun a wipe over to protect it from moisture in the air.

5: DAMP RIFLES FROM SHOOTING IN THE RAIN

As soon as you can, give the rifle a drying off with a cloth and wipe over with a cloth and drop of oil. If the gun has been completely soaked, the rifle will need to be taken out of its stock and completely dried off. Wipe over with a cloth and oil. Never leave your rifle damp in its protective gun bag, or the moisture will rust the gun. Allow the gun bag to dry fully in the airing cupboard before placing the rifle back in.



Event organisers around the world all ask the same question...



What makes a good event?

The answer: topical speakers, a wide range of exhibitors, the right location, everything even down to the weather can impact the success of an event.

Whatever the magical recipe the 7th Benelux Pest, held on 26th April in Eindhoven, got it right. Opening its doors to almost 400 visitors, doubling the figures from previous events, and attracting 42 exhibitors the event was awash with new products and innovations from around the

world. The hocus pocus continues with two key note speakers: Bart Knols, Director from In2Care and Steinar Henskes, Director of Bird Control Group. The presentations proved to have enchanted the audience targeting the topical issue of the threat of invasive mosquito species to the Netherlands and the possible impact of them on the spreading of viruses like malaria, dengue fever and the zika virus. Also,

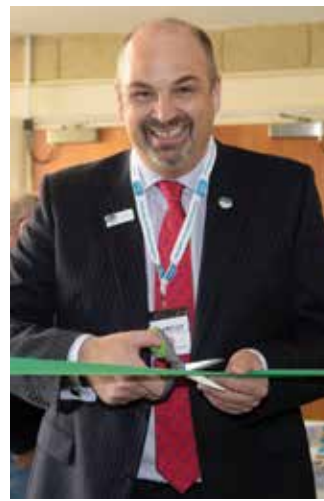
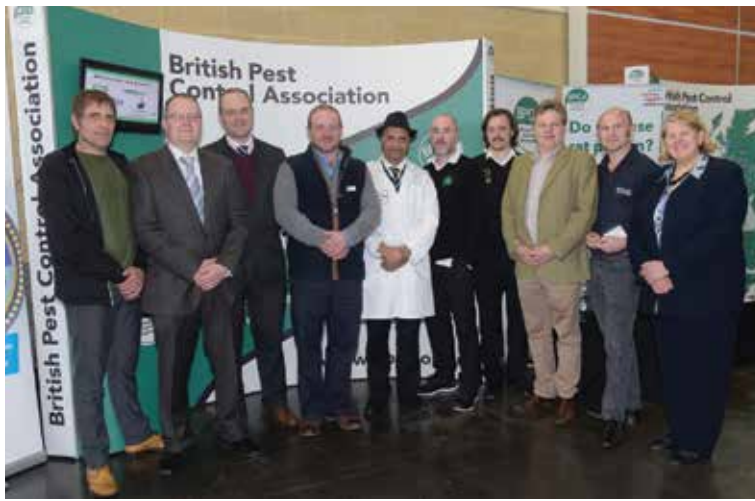
the increasingly popular use of lasers to manage birds like geese, gulls, sparrows and pigeons on airports, buildings and farm land were covered.

Visitors and exhibitors later came together to celebrate the success of the event at the Benelux Pest Control News Dinner where Rinus van Zanten, Event Organiser was awarded a book of thanks from his friends celebrating his notable contribution to the Pest Control Industry.

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BENELUX PEST 2016

PCN



British Pest Control Association (BPCA)

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This year, PPC Live was held at the East of England showground near Peterborough on 16th March. The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) organises the event biannually to fit nicely with the distinguished sister event, PestEx.

The event showcased over 50 exhibitors, attempting to entice you to their stands by displaying the latest products and technology. Naturally, the attendee numbers depleted in the afternoon making it easier for guests to have more detailed discussions with the exhibitors, which can often be difficult during a busy day at work.

A number of seminars and practical demonstrations were available to attend, with the CRRU UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime being the most popular (surprise, surprise).

Attendees were able to submit any questions to the expert panel before the event. Even though this seminar was well attended there were still plenty of seats available, so people weren't left standing.

Couldn't make it to PPC Live, or want to revisit one of the seminars?

Access four of the seminars via the BPCA website – sign up for free via www.bpca.org.uk/affiliate

1. Question Time Debate on Rodenticide Stewardship
2. The digital landscape: right audience, right message, right channel (Jane Shepherd, Shepherd PR)
3. Risk Mitigation Measures and Reproductive Toxicity: Where do we Stand? (Prof Philippe Berny, European Board of Veterinary Specialisation)
4. Successful Pest Control for Food Manufacturing: tips for achieving compliance (Paul Westgate, Westgate Pest Control)

The pre-registration of the event made it easy for people to beat the queues and also receive regular updates and special offers before the show. The venue was easy to get to with plenty of parking available.

Simon Forrester, BPCA Chief Executive, said, "Our second PPC Live went very well; both the 50-odd trade stands and packed seminar programme were a real draw.

"With over 350 visitors the event has proven that if BPCA takes a professional conference and exhibition around the country, pest controllers will respond positively and support it by attending.

"We are planning the next event, so watch out for an announcement soon."

PPC LIVE 2016

PCN

RSPH the Saviour of Fumigation & The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 and Qualifications

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The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 require that sellers and users of plant protection products must have a 'specified certificate' in order to sell or use these products.

Those involved in sale and supply should hold the appropriate BASIS Certificate for Sale and Supply and anyone who purchases these products must ensure that the end user also holds an appropriate certificate. These requirements came into force in November 2015.

Awarding Organisations that offer these qualifications MUST themselves be externally regulated. RSPH is regulated by Ofqual and Qualifications Wales, and BASIS by the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency), through Harper Adams University.

RSPH has developed three qualifications which enable the holder to use plant protection products and are classed as specified certificates; these are:

[Level 2 Award in Using Aluminium Phosphide for the Management of Vertebrate Pests,](#)

[Level 3 Award in the Safe Use of Fumigants for the Management of Invertebrate Pests;](#) and

[Level 3 Certificate in the Safe Use of Fumigants for the Management of Invertebrate Pests.](#)

In developing these qualifications RSPH had to ensure that the content covered all of the requirements contained in Annex 1 of the sustainable use directive. This had then to

be approved by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), a division of the Health and Safety Executive.

The final qualifications were then approved by the Pest Control Education and Training Forum (which includes representatives of training organisations, pest control companies and pest control trade associations) and RAMPS (the Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Standards) with respect to the safe use of aluminium phosphide qualification; and the above forum and the FaCE committee (Fumigation and Controlled Environment) of BPCA with respect to the fumigation qualifications, before being submitted to Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications.

The aluminium phosphide qualification consists of two units: one theory and one practical.

The fumigation qualifications comprise eight units: a mandatory theory unit and seven option units, each of which relates to a specific fumigation operation. Depending on their role fumigation candidates will take the mandatory unit and one or more of the option units.

Prior to the development of the RSPH fumigation qualifications and the November 2015 deadline, the BPCA Fumigation Diploma was the qualification of choice for invertebrate fumigation.

Under the sustainable use regulations the BPCA Diploma was not a specified certificate as BPCA is not externally regulated by Ofqual or QAA. As a result of earlier discussions with CRD, representatives of the fumigation industry

believed that holders of the BPCA Diploma had grandfather rights for the use of fumigants which extended beyond November 2015. Unfortunately, CRD stated that this was not the case. This meant that after November 2015 nobody was appropriately qualified to carry out fumigation of invertebrate pests in grain, as no one had yet been awarded certificates for the RSPH fumigation qualifications.

To urgently address this situation RSPH rapidly mapped the mandatory unit of their fumigation qualification to the content of the BPCA fumigation course, to try and prove to CRD that the two were equivalent. RSPH's terms of compliance with Ofqual meant that RSPH could not retrospectively accredit the BPCA Diploma and so could not allow fumigators to 'swap' their BPCA Diploma for an RSPH certificate.

BASIS however are regulated differently to RSPH through Harper Adams University and so were able to accredit the BPCA Diploma, allowing fumigation activities to continue.

RSPH's pest management qualifications are taken mainly by pest controllers working in the public health field.

BASIS qualifications are concerned more with the agricultural sector and encompass the storage and distribution of metallic phosphide products through the BASIS Store Inspection Scheme and the RAMPS Code of Good Practice.

[Together these two organisations have ensured the future of invertebrate fumigation operations.](#)



We are just five months into what is the biggest change to how BPCA assesses our members in the 74 years since BPCA was founded

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To start with, the most amazing statistic is that we “The UK” have hit not one, but three key milestones. First in Europe to get ten companies CEPA certified® - an amazing achievement especially considering we started later than some other member states.

First in Europe to get twenty companies CEPA certified®; the closest to us was Italy with 14 CEPA certified® at this time. Finally we are in pole position, having the most companies CEPA certified® across Europe; as I write this we are sitting at 30 CEPA Certified companies with a total of 81 certified companies across Europe – we make up over a third of the total. All the certified UK companies are BPCA members, which says a lot.

This shows the rest of Europe how committed the UK professional pest management companies are in not only supporting the standard but in leading the way in demonstrating the high level of service BPCA members give to their customers.

The support process that is available free of charge for all BPCA members is proving successful, with all members audited so far passing first time, and with 90% not even having any minor non-conformities, it also gives companies the opportunity to look at

the processes you have in place and discuss and implement changes that can benefit your business, in other words a free MOT for your company. A small minority of our members (around 4%) have had the EN16636 audit but decided not to take up CEPA certification at this time, but they can now say that they have been audited against the British (or European, for you Europhiles out there) standard and meet the requirements.

CEPA Certified is designed to win businesses more work, and more profitable work at that. With this accreditation your company can say to existing and new clients ‘I have more to deliver’ – you will be able to set a new price point for your business, thus increasing profitability.

One unseen benefit for us all is that CEPA Certified allows the pest control industry an opportunity to move up the value chain towards food safety – and that’s where the money and time are spent.

We asked Martin Rose-King from Bounty Pest Control how he thought being CEPA Certified benefited his company and his response was “Immeasurable. To have the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to our customers is wonderful. In an industry where we need someone to take the lead and set a real standard for all to work to CEPA, BPCA, TAS and Bureau Veritas should really congratulate themselves

for giving everyone working in the industry an opportunity to show what we can do.”

So, as you can see, the new process is going very well and to help even more, BPCA is running EN16636 breakfast roadshows across the country to help your business get CEPA Certified, and the first of these in Scotland went very well, with around 20 companies attending. There are still places available at some of the events, so book now.

On the day you will receive:

- guidance on the CEPA Certified® process
- documentation to help you achieve the standard
- marketing advice from a top PR company to maximise the benefit of accreditation to your business

You will also have a chance to speak to BPCA staff (including your BPCA mentor), senior members of the team, Jessica Morgan from the UK certification body Bureau Veritas and, most importantly, a pest control company in your area that already has certification. They will be able to share with you their experience of the audit and how they are already benefiting from being CEPA Certified®. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Find out more at www.bpca.org.uk/ceparoadshows



NPTA Training Days in Full Swing

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W With the long-awaited 'UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime' finally coming into effect, the NPTA have been travelling the country explaining the implications to their members in a series of Training Days.

We have visited venues in Farnborough, Stirling, Altrincham, Bristol and Belfast so far this year. These events have dealt with a wide variety of subjects in addition to those connected to 'Stewardship'.

The significance of the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice and its implications, including the need to produce Environmental Risk Assessments was presented, together with details of new products that will assist pest controllers in controlling rodents without endangering the environment.

A very interesting day was also held at Portlaoise in the Irish Republic for our Irish members, where similar issues were discussed.

It was interesting to find that the Irish response to the same EU Regulations was also based primarily on raising awareness of the leakage of anticoagulants into the environment with professional users, rather than the more regulatory approach seen in some other EU countries.

Also involving CRRU, a similar document to our UK Code of Best Practice, the CRRU Ireland Best Practice Requirements document was much in evidence, and a lively presentation by CRRU Ireland's Communications Officer, Eanna NiLamhna, certainly brought the key message home.

Further NPTA Training Days at Newcastle and Norwich are planned and if attendance levels seen at the previous days are reached at these venues, we will have met up with nearly 500 pest controllers this year.



Then there is still Pest Tech to come!

M
MILNERS
Solicitors

Always read the

.....small print



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All matters that become a problem, and ultimately litigious, start with a difference of perspective or a misunderstanding about relative positions. Such differences from an employer and employee to service provider or distributor, are classically escalated to the point of no return when the small print has not been read, understood or worse still – does not exist at all.

In the high-tech world we now live and work, contractual relations can be established at the click of a button. Information can be disseminated to the outside world from your place of business, carrying your company name, or via social media from your employee's laptop.

It's really quite easy to buy something, send an email, post on your blog, drop someone a text, it's also quite terrifying when such simple things go hellishly wrong – and they do – all of the time. In some sense it's easy to see how.

The internet is massively accessible from your desktop PC, smartphone, laptop or tablet. The problem with such immediate and instant access is that things can be done without due consideration and reflection. This is particularly how innocuous actions are done; without any real consequential thinking.

When you are deciding to engage with a new supplier, ensure that you do so on your terms

and conditions and not theirs. This is historically known as a 'battle of the forms' and put short, whoever sends their terms and conditions last – wins!

Your terms and conditions should carry the usual protection: limiting liability, referring a dispute to mediation (binding or non-binding) and setting out the terms that you are prepared to do business on and when.

As such, when you e-mail an order or engage with a third party, ensure that your terms and conditions are attached, and ask them to be confirmed as received. It is easy to act in haste and repent at leisure and pay handsomely for your legals when things go wrong.

Have your employees got a contract? Has it been signed? Are there up-to-date restrictive covenants? And does your handbook deal with social media properly?

It is very easy to let these things slide and not get around to them but again, if the loose ends are not tied up, sometimes it's an open invitation for disaster to come.

Restrictive covenants are a bit of a moving target and are often overlooked, mainly because they are contained within the contract of employment which is generally signed once employment commences. However, restrictive covenants must be tailored to the employees' role at the relevant time, for example if the

employee has subsequently been promoted or changed position their restrictive covenants would need to be reviewed.

If the covenants are too wide and do not protect your legitimate business interests you will find that you fall down once you get to Court. Restrictive covenants can be essential with some of your employees especially when seeking non-compete clauses so put simply, you need to keep on top of them.

The phrase 'small print' is a bit of a misnomer, it's actually not normally small print at all, but usually just print that is never read or appreciated or at worst – not printed at all.

Managing these sorts of issues is in itself a challenge for the small business with time a scarce resource, but careful planning and using common sense is a good start. Obtaining an understanding lawyer is not to be underestimated since prevention is always better (and cheaper) than cure.

If you have any queries concerning the above or any other legal issues, please do not hesitate to contact Giles Ward at Milners Solicitors.

Your guide to the pest control 2016 training dates



Killgerm Training run courses nationwide offering different types of courses for different levels of experience and knowledge. Details of all course dates and locations are available online at www.killgerm.com/pest-control-training-calendar; there is also a full list in the Killgerm catalogue on pages 211-213. For further information or to book your place on a course call 01924 268445 or email training@killgerm.com.

JUNE 2016

01/06/2016 - Air Weapons - Bisley
02/06/2016 - Principles Involved in Controlling Pests in Drainage systems - Perth
02/06/2016 - Selling & Marketing for Bird Control - Guildford
08/06/2016 - Air Weapons - Near Doncaster
08/06/2016 - Making IT Work for You - Ossett
08/06/2016 - Practical Rodent Control on Farms - Pickering
09/06/2016 - Air Weapons - Crewe
09/06/2016 - Drainage Course for PCOs - Guildford
14/06/2016 - Practical Risk Management - Guildford
14/06/2016 - Bird Control - Theory - Near Belfast
15/06/2016 - Bird Control - Practical - Near Belfast
15/06/2016 - Practical Rabbit Control - Pickering
21/06/2016 - Insect Control - Plymouth
22/06/2016 - Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Control - Clunby Kirkcaldy
22/06/2016 - Safe Use of Pesticides - Plymouth
23/06/2016 - Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control - Plymouth
29/06/2016 - Practical Mole Trapping - Pickering

JULY 2016

05/07/2016 - Insect Control - Bristol
06/07/2016 - Safe Use of Pesticides - Bristol
12/07/2016 - Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control - Bristol
13/07/2016 - Practical Rodent Control on Farms - Pickering
19/07/2016 - Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control - Bedford
20/07/2016 - Pest Control Procedures in Food Premises - Ossett
20/07/2016 - Practical Rabbit Control - Pickering
21/07/2016 - Air Weapons - Leicestershire
27/07/2016 - Practical Mole Trapping - Pickering

AUGUST 2016

10/08/2016 - Practical Rodent Control on Farms - Pickering
17/08/2016 - Practical Rabbit Control - Pickering
24/08/2016 - Air Weapons - Near Doncaster
31/08/2016 - Practical Mole Trapping - Pickering

To book visit - www.killgerm.com



JUNE 2016

02/06/2016 - Modular Pest Control Course* - BPCA Offices Derby
04/06/2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Safe Use of Rodenticides - South
06/06/2016 - BPCA Accredited Technician in Pest Control - BPCA Offices Derby
15/06/2016 - Becoming a Field Biologist- BPCA Offices Derby
17/06/2016 - Using Rodenticides Safely - BPCA Offices Derby
22/06/2016 - BPCA Certified Field Biologist- BPCA Offices Derby

JULY 2016

01/07/2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management - BPCA Offices Derby
01/07/2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Safe Use of Rodenticides - BPCA Offices Derby
01/07/2016 - Modular Pest Control Course* - BPCA Offices Derby

AUGUST 2016

26/08/2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management - BPCA Offices Derby
26/08/2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Safe Use of Rodenticides - BPCA Offices Derby

To book visit www.bPCA.co.uk



MAY 2016

Tuesday 17th May 2016 - RSPH level 2 Award in the safe use of Rodenticides

JUNE 2016

Thursday 9th June 2016 - Practical Wasp Control
Tuesday 14th June 2016 - The Application of Aluminium Phosphide - Phostoxin or Talunex for Vertebrate Control
Tuesday 21st June 2016 - RSPH level 2 Award in the safe use of Rodenticides
Thursday 23 June 2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management
Day 1, 23rd June 2016 - Day 2, 24th June 2016
Day 3, 28th June 2016 - Day 4, 29th June 2016
Day 5, 7th July 2016 - Day 6, 8th July 2016 - Day 7, 14th July 2016

JULY 2016

Tuesday 12th July 2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in the safe use of Rodenticides
Friday 15th July 2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management exam - RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management Assessment

AUGUST 2016

Thursday 11th August 2016 - RSPH level 2 Award in the safe use of Rodenticides
Thursday 18th August 2016 -
The Application of Aluminium Phosphide -
Phostoxin or Talunex for Vertebrate Control

To book visit www.pestsolutions.co.uk

Pest Solution Limited, A6 Risby Business Park, Newmarket Road
Risby, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6RD



AUGUST 2016

25th Aug 2016 - Rodent control - bespoke 1 day - Hampshire

SEPTEMBER 2016

1st Sep 2016 - Urban Bird Management - Hampshire
2nd Sep 2016 - Bird sales - Hampshire
3rd Sep 2016 - Bird installations - Hampshire
7th - 9th Sep 2016 - RSPH Level 2 Award 3 Day Course - RSPH Level 2 Exam - West Midlands
12th Sep 2016 - Rodent Control with less rodenticides - Hampshire
13th Sep 2016 - How to make Sales Work - Hampshire
20th Sep 2016 - RSPH Level 2 Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide - Hampshire
22nd Sep 2016 - Rodent control - bespoke 1 day - West Midlands

OCTOBER 2016

4th Oct 2016 - RSPH Level 2 Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide - West Midlands
17th Oct 2016 - Rodent Control with less rodenticides - West Midlands
18th Oct 2016 - How to make Sales Work - West Midlands

To book visit www.pesttrain.co.uk



JUNE 2016

08th Jun 2016 - NPTA On The Road in the North East
15th Jun 2016 - NPTA Wildlife Crime Awareness - Nottinghamshire

SEPTEMBER 2016

28th Sep 2016 - NPTA On The Road in the East - Norfolk

OCTOBER 2016

07th Oct 2016 - NPTA Charity Golf Day - Cheshire

NOVEMBER 2016

02nd Nov 2016 - PestTech 2016 - West Midlands

To book visit www.npta.org.uk



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