

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

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ISSUE
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Dates announced for ICUP 2022 conference

After the disruption and postponement caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisers of the International Conference on Urban Pests (ICUP) are now delighted to announce the dates of their rescheduled 2020 Conference.

The 2022 Conference is to once again take place at the prestigious Pompeu Fabra University, in Barcelona, Spain from 27th to 29th June 2022.

www.pestcontrolnews.com



PestTech is back:

PestTech is back November 10th 2021 at the MK Arena. The event is free entry and free parking for all attendees. PestTech caters for every sector of the industry with exhibitors covering every facet connected with vertebrate and invertebrate management, this exhibition is essential for all those involved within the industry or on it's periphery.

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BASIS appoints Teresa:

Teresa Meadows has been announced as the Head of Environment and Public Affairs at BASIS. This was made known after BASIS detailed its plans to deliver training for advisers following the announcement of the proposed Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes.

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Killgerm breakfast meetings are back:

Killgerm are returning to host their breakfast meetings face-to-face this Autumn. In accordance with the government's loosening of the Covid guidelines, the decision has been made to hold the events, which allow pest controllers to earn CPD points, in-person.

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PestWest fly high with another award for flyDetect

PestWest® was announced the winner of the Digital Engineering/Technology Award for flyDetect® at the Made in Yorkshire Awards ceremony last night hosted by Insider Media Limited.

flyDetect® is the industry leader in online flying insect monitoring. The 24/7 remote monitoring system has a built-in high-resolution camera which captures the entire sticky board. The flyDetect® was also the joint winner of the Best New Product Award at The Society of Food Hygiene and Technology Virtual Awards Ceremony which took place on Friday 4th December 2020.

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Selontra

Great news! BASF have received their HACCP certificate for Selontra. This now allows pest controllers greater reassurance to use Selontra to service clients in the food industry employing the HACCP system.

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CRRU Code of Best Practice 2021 – what's new?

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The CRRU Code of Best Practice (COBP), first released in 2015, has been updated for 2021. Pest Control News looks at the key changes to this updated version.

As a reminder, the CRRU COBP is an essential document. It has been a cornerstone of the UK Rodenticides Stewardship Regime since launch in 2015. The Code remains the foundation for CRRU-approved training and certification for users of professional-use rodenticides. It is also the key document in terms of informing best practice for all users of professional-use rodenticides. It goes without saying that it is essential for users to follow changes to the COBP.

Throughout what follows, text within quotation marks is an extract from the COBP unless attributed to a named source.

What's the biggest change to the COBP?

'Legal teeth'

This is only an opinion, as any changes are arguably just as important, but an overall and major change is 'upgrading' from guidance document to having 'legal teeth'. This is because the Code is now specified on product labels: "Refer to the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice (or equivalent) for guidance". It is now therefore a requirement of authorisation for professional rodenticide products that this CRRU guidance document is followed.

Non-standard uses e.g. burrow baiting

There are many common uses of rodenticide that are now classified officially as 'non-standard uses'. Such methods need to be applied for specifically and must appear on product labels for them to be permissible. One example is burrow baiting – if it's not on the label you cannot do it!

The non-standard uses are:

- Permanent baiting
- Covered and protected bait points
- Burrow baiting
- Pulsed baiting

Consideration of new active ingredients

The return of cholecalciferol and hydrogen cyanide are covered.

"Cholecalciferol baits may be used against Norway rats, black rats and house mice, including resistant strains (see Annex 3). Cholecalciferol is not persistent in the environment and therefore it may be assumed to present a lower risk of secondary poisoning. However, it is not free from risks to non-targets as it is, like many rodenticides, acutely toxic to some species."

"Hydrogen cyanide is authorised for use in the UK against Norway rats by application as a fumigant in empty structures. Methods of application and risk mitigation measures to protect those making the application, bystanders, non-target animals and the environment are highly specialised and technically challenging. This control measure can therefore be applied only by companies that have specially trained and certificated technicians and appropriate equipment. Properly carried out in empty buildings this procedure will carry little environmental risk."

Further information on resistance management

The reference to cholecalciferol points users to an annexe about resistance management. This updated guidance, courtesy of the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group, provides a classification of rodenticide active substances that are authorised in the UK. It will help users decide which active substance(s) to use when they encounter resistant rodent infestations.

Risk hierarchy update

The 'risk hierarchy' remains as a cornerstone of responsible rodent control and rodenticide stewardship. But additional active ingredients becoming available means there is more to consider. There are new details for using a risk hierarchy to plan effective rodent control at minimum risk to people, non-target animals and the environment. The principle is that before applying rodent control measures, everyone should consider the risks systematically, according to Dee Ward-Thompson, leader of the CRRU Best Practice work group that carried out the update. "These include risk to humans, domesticated animals, non-target animals and the environment", she says. "Consistent with a reasonable expectation that the operation will be effective, only measures posing the least risk should be used. Generally, non-chemical methods such as improved site hygiene and proofing of buildings present less risk than those that involve rodenticide." (*Note from Tech ed. – remember that Environmental Risk Assessments are still an essential part of the updated COBP.*)

Animal Welfare

A more detailed consideration of the welfare impacts of rodent control measures is also covered.

"The welfare of target and non-target animals should always be considered when conducting a rodent pest management programme. Animals should only be harmed when there is no other practical way to protect human health and well-being, and welfare impacts should be minimised wherever possible. Of course, the best approach is to reduce the likelihood and scale of rodent infestations by removing food sources and harbourage and by using proofing to exclude rodents from buildings and resources.

"All chemical rodent control methods that are intended to kill animals will have adverse impacts on rodent welfare. A review by the UK

government found all anticoagulants and cholecalciferol to be ‘markedly inhumane’, although alphachloralose was considered to be ‘relatively humane’ (see <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/rodent-welfare/rodent-welfare>). The review also found that hydrogen cyanide and aluminium phosphide cause suffering but are more humane than anticoagulant rodenticides and cholecalciferol (see Further Reading).

“Trapping, both using live-capture traps and kill traps, also impacts rodent welfare (see section 3.6). Only traps that are appropriate for use against rats and mice should be used. The degree of suffering caused during kill trapping will depend on the time until the rodent becomes irreversibly unconscious, which will be determined largely by the body strike location and the power of the trap. Proficiency is needed in setting kill traps to maximise the likelihood of a clean catch.

“Glue (sticky) boards are a type of live trap which should only be used indoors and only when less severe alternatives are likely to be either impractical or ineffective (see section 3.7).

“Pest species taken in live-capture traps cannot be released and must therefore be quickly and humanely despatched using an appropriate method, such as a concussive blow to the head. Rodents found alive in kill traps should also be quickly and humanely despatched. It is essential that operators are skilled in the method of humane despatch used as the impact on animal welfare will depend on the speed and proficiency with which it is applied.

“For Norway rats only use products suitable for use with that species, and likewise with house mice. More information on the animal welfare consequences of rodent pest management and on the use of rodent traps is provided in the ‘Further Reading’ section.”

Clarification regarding wood mice

There is a reminder that no rodenticide products are authorised in the UK for use against field mice (i.e. *Apodemus sylvaticus* and *A. flavicollis*). Therefore, all references in the document to ‘mice’ are to the house mouse *Mus musculus*.

Non-toxic monitoring baits

Recognition is made of non-toxic monitoring baits attracting non-target species to the area. “It has become common practice to employ unpoisoned ‘monitoring’ baits to replace the use of permanent poisoned baits, which must not be used for monitoring. This practice is useful and serves to reduce the exposure of non-target rodents, such as voles and wood mice, and birds which readily enter bait stations. However, monitoring baits are also attractive to non-target species and provision of this food source may increase the density of these animals at the treated site, making buildings more prone to ingress by them. Poisoned baits should not be deployed into bait boxes where monitoring baits used in them previously show signs of consumption by non-target rodents and birds.”

Further information on non-target species

An observation is made regarding types of bait station now available that limit the entry of non-target species. “A recent development is that of species-specific bait stations which permit access by Norway rats while excluding small non-target rodents. Another point to note is that predation of slugs and snails, which have consumed anticoagulant rodenticide, is a suspected contamination route of hedgehogs, shrews and starlings. Sparrowhawks predate small songbirds, such as starlings and thrushes, which feed on these molluscs and are also known to carry anticoagulant rodenticide residues.”

Final comments

The foreword of the updated COBP reminds us that there are many other useful references regarding rodent control. In terms of having information freely available, we’re probably in the best shape we’ve ever been as an industry. The key then, is to put this information to good use...

“As was the case with the 2015 version, the new COBP is not intended to be a detailed practical manual. Instead it provides guidance principles and sign-posts further reading intended to give all necessary detailed information. In particular, CRRU has provided detailed additional documents on permanent baiting and environmental risk assessments. Elsewhere are to be found in-depth texts on anticoagulant resistance management, the practical aspects of rodenticide applications in urban environments, rodent pest management for gamekeepers and many more. All additional referenced documents are available from internet sources.”



Your guide to the latest social media trends

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I think we can all agree the past 18 months have been a roller-coaster and social media has played a huge part in the way we have continued to communicate. The sudden change in our lifestyles has increased the time we spend online.



This has led to social platforms releasing new features, with new platforms emerging to fulfil this need. Social media has and continues to play a significant part in the way businesses communicate with their customers. We've shortlisted a few of the latest social media features available to share with you...

CREATE ENGAGING CONTENT

The trick is to catch your audience's attention. To do this you must understand your audience and know how they tick and what they'd find interesting. Will your content stop people from scrolling by? An effective way is by interacting with your customers. This could be by giving them an insight into your working day, a sneak peak behind the scenes in your warehouse or office, or even a simple Q&A to answer burning questions they make have. Social media is a great platform to generate organic traffic and if done well can bring huge business to your company.

TWITTER SPACES

Now this one is the newbie on the block, it was only released in December 2020 but is on the rise in popularity. Twitter Spaces is an audio only platform, which is a step away from the traditional tweets that consist of up to 280 characters. All conversations are public and in real-time. Up to 13 people (including the host and up to 2 co-hosts) can join a conversation and anyone can join as a listener, whether they are following the participants or not. However, there is a small catch, only selected people Twitter chooses can create their own space to start these conversations, meaning not everybody can. This social tool probably needs to evolve a little before it's a good fit to use for your business but it's definitely something to keep your eye on.

TIKTOK

TikTok was founded in 2016 and has a ginormous 1 billion active users. It's the most popular download in app stores, overtaking social giants Facebook and Instagram! For those of you who don't already know, TikTok is a platform designed to film and share short videos that play on a repetitive loop. Like Snapchat you can add fun effects, text, filters and music to spice things up. Hashtags can also be used on TikTok, like other social platforms once you've created your video you can add hashtags so your video can be easily found. A unique way hashtags have been adopted is through TikTok's challenges tab, this section of the app encourages users to create a challenge themed hashtag and if you post a video responding to a challenge, you include the corresponding hashtag. This is so people following the challenge can see easily see all the relevant videos. Please be warned, time runs away with you once you start, you can get lost down a rabbit hole of scrolling!

INSTAGRAM REELS

With the rise in TikTok's popularity, Instagram fought back and released their reels feature. Reels is now in direct competition with TikTok, giving Instagram users a platform to create video content too. Quirky effects, music and transitions are all features that can be added to videos. This is a fantastic free marketing tool for businesses to engage with their consumers. Reels give businesses the ability to create engaging content through the medium of video, a few examples include sharing product releases, Q&A's to answer customers questions, behind the scenes footage and how-to guides. The opportunities really are endless for creating engaging content with Instagram Reels.

These are only a few of the Social Media trends we've seen in 2021, it's not enough to just post a picture anymore. People need to feel like they're right there with you. Will you explore these new social trends?

Five years of rodenticide stewardship – what next?

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Pest Control News examines a report, published by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) UK, of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime's work from 2016 to 2020.

A big question is “what can we expect from the next five years of stewardship?” The biggest changes look to be coming from the training and certification aspect of stewardship – read on for these developments. Also included is a note on plans from a regulatory point-of-view. While further plans regarding best practice, point-of-sale, monitoring and communication are not included in this article, we expect more of the same excellent measures from these groups over the next five years.

For background and initial conclusions from the report and the five-year Government Oversight Group review of stewardship, please see the CRRU press release on www.pestcontrolnews.com. Here, we can go straight to answering, “what next?”

Training and Certification

Featuring prominently in the report are significant plans over the next five years for training and certification. With CRRU-approved training having been available since the start of stewardship and a big push, in recent years, regarding Continuing Professional Development (CPD) you’d be forgiven for thinking that there wasn’t a great deal more that could be done. Discussions have been ongoing since March 2021 and a key outcome is that, from 31st July 2022, all CRRU-approved training and certification will be Ofqual regulated. The processes to arrange this commenced in July 2021 and some training and certification options have been Ofqual regulated from the start.

For those unfamiliar with Ofqual and training and certification lingo, we can explain a little about this. Ofqual regulation provides extra rigour, further security measures and ‘comparability’ between similar qualifications. For example, invigilation is a requirement. This will mean unsupervised rodent control examinations will not be possible in future. It is expected that ‘comparability’ considerations will include learning hours and closer alignment of this.

Any incremental improvements like this will be welcome. While informally the HSE-led Government Oversight Group (GOG) deemed stewardship to be ‘fit for purpose’ over the last five years, it is a shared GOG and CRRU concern that anticoagulant residues in barn owls remain ‘stubbornly static’.

The lifespan of certificates is something else that has been looked at. Is it really right that a certificate is a ‘lifetime pass’? It has been decided that certificates from CRRU-approved one-day rodenticide training courses will bear the phrase ‘Relevant CPD, or refresher training within 5 years, is recommended’ and this has begun from June 2021. It isn’t yet compulsory, but a timely and written reminder / piece of advice is certainly helpful. Aside from stewardship aims, a relatively old certificate doesn’t look too great to customers or sat in the site folder. Keeping training up to date is always a good idea.

The CRRU Code of Best Practice, revised June 2021 and essential in terms of keeping up to date, is a key resource / handout for training courses and it makes sense to mention that at this point in the article. We have a full article on the revised code – see pages 6-7.

Another point noted in the five-year progress report is that the farming sector has been asked whether all users on-farm, of professional rodenticides under stewardship, should have CRRU-approved training and certification, even if operating under an approved Farm Assurance Scheme (FAS), as an attempt to address highlighted knowledge gaps. Of course, regular FAS audits are a robust and frequent check of best practice – indeed, not all trained users in other sectors receive this kind of check.

Here is the biggest change coming. To quote straight from the CRRU report to GOG, ‘A series of meetings will take place, in 2021, to discuss further that users should hold a stewardship approved certificate obtained within the last five years or evidence of the alternative of CPD participation (or other suitable regular check of knowledge / best practice), which should be introduced over a five-year period.’

An explanation of the plan, ahead of 2026: if your training certificate was obtained more than five years before 2026 you’ll need proof of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), presented at the point-of-sale, to allow purchase of professional-use rodenticides. The alternative will be to hold a stewardship-approved certificate that was gained within the last five years. For such a big change, there will be time to bring this in. It’s already been said but, for the purpose of clarity, the plan is for this to be operating from 2026 onwards.

Of course, there are many details to work out, such as ‘what constitutes approved CPD?’ A number of established CPD schemes already available to pest controllers, farmers and gamekeepers, are signposted here by CRRU <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/>

It is expected that CPD will be the preferred route for many operators with experience (CPD is already a membership requirement for pest control trade associations) rather than re-taking basic training every five years.

Regulatory

For the CRRU Regulatory Work Group, there is the continuing impact of Brexit to consider. The group writes that they are working with rodenticide authorisation-holders to figure out next steps, such as costs of keeping product authorisations and obtaining new ones, due to changes arising from Brexit. The group is encouraging HSE to involve authorisation holders in discussions on future regulation. The objective of these discussions is to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control, improve user-friendliness of labels and, ultimately, the safety of rodenticide application in the UK.

Overall

CRRU meanwhile continues to seek ways to strengthen the regime while also maintaining its promotion of responsible wildlife-aware rodent control by pest controllers, farmers and gamekeepers.

‘Five Years of Rodenticide Stewardship 2016-2020’ can be downloaded from thinkwildlife.org/downloads

“what can we expect from the next five years of stewardship?”



Bayer® announce cholecalciferol-based rodenticide bait

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Bayer Environmental Science have announced **Harmonix Rodent Paste**, their cholecalciferol-based (0.075%) rodenticide bait, and PCN takes a view on this. We do enjoy a good label at PCN and the non-standard use of burrow baiting is on this label. Another highlight of the label is that areas of use include ‘open areas’ and ‘waste dumps’.

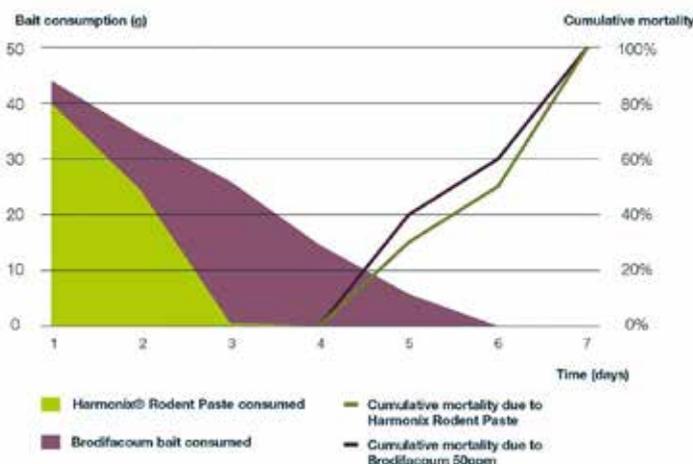
Complementary monitoring

Moving briefly away from the label (we will return!) there is a non-toxic monitoring bait, called Harmonix Monitoring Paste, that has a very similar bait matrix to Harmonix Rodent Paste. The idea here is that when bait takes of the monitoring product indicate rodent activity, the change to the cholecalciferol product can be made swiftly. This process, of complementary monitoring then switching to cholecalciferol, can help judge the level of initial activity, overcome bait shyness, improve initial bait consumption, shorten the baiting time and therefore reduce the length of time that rodenticides are in place. This kind of complementary monitoring, matching the monitoring product to the rodenticide, is part of a ‘dynamic IPM’ plan as termed by Bayer.

Also covered is the ‘stop feeding’ effect of cholecalciferol. The mode of action, hypercalcaemia (raised levels of calcium in organs, tissues and vessels), causes the ‘stop feeding’ effect which is where the rodent ceases to feed after it has consumed a lethal dose over a few days. It is estimated that 50% less bait is consumed due to the ‘stop feeding’ effect, so there could be a commercial benefit of less bait being used (note that rodents continue to consume anticoagulants even after a lethal dose has been ingested). The ‘stop feeding’ effect is also thought to limit rodent damage, and reduce the spread of disease, due to a lack of appetite and increase in fatigue. Of course, it is crucial that rodents consume enough bait, during that initial baiting period, ahead of the stop feeding impact. Otherwise, bait shyness could be an issue. This is where the aforementioned complementary monitoring can be useful but it isn’t essential. The bait can be put down without prior monitoring bait being used. However, ensuring the appropriate amount of bait is available, to target rodents, means that a thorough survey is essential to establish the size and extent of activity.

Here is the point about anticoagulant consumption, versus the cholecalciferol ‘stop feeding’ effect, in graphical form

Bait consumption and mortality
Lab trial against Mice
(5 males + 5 females)



Burrow baiting

Focussing in on the ability to burrow bait with this product, one of the non-standard uses referred to in the recently revised CRRU Code of Best Practice, we see good advice regarding best practice.

- Burrow baiting can avoid neophobic response and improve bait uptake. Applying bait directly into the burrow system removes the likelihood of rodents finding additional food sources
- Burrow baiting should not be routine practice, it should be used when other treatment processes have failed or have been discounted after a recorded assessment
- Always place bait as deeply as possible and use vertical burrows where possible to discourage bait ejection
- If possible secure the soft blocks with a wire, fixed to a secure location
- Bait ejection is a possibility so lightly block burrows with soil or stones to help prevent non-target access
- Regular follow up visits will be required to inspect for bait ejection and to remove dead rodent bodies
- Daily visits may be necessary depending on the pest operator’s assessment
- Remove remaining bait where possible at the end of the treatment

Linking again to the recently updated CRRU Code of Best Practice, we should still consider non-toxic control measures before treating with a rodenticide e.g. improving hygiene standards, excluding rodent access and improving storage regimes. Also, with an eye on burrow baiting and open area usage, ‘Record the positions where bait has been laid and, where required, put up warning signage to show that a treatment is in progress’ plus ‘Where possible, prior to the treatment any possible bystanders (e.g. users of the treated area and their surroundings) will be informed about the rodent control campaign.’

How much bait can be used and how frequent are the revisits?

There is flexibility in terms of application rates, according to levels of rodent activity, thanks to the label.

Target organism	Dose (per baiting point)	Level of infestation	Distance between baiting points – tamper resistant bait stations or covered and protected baiting points
Mice	20 g (1 sachet)	High	2-5 linear metres
		Low	5-20 linear metres
Rats	100-200 g (5-10 sachets)	High	3-10 linear metres
		Low	10-20 linear metres

Follow-up visits are different to anticoagulants and bait points should therefore be visited at least every 1 to 2 days at the beginning of the treatment and at least weekly afterwards, if not applied as part of a permanent baiting programme.

What is the full list of 'areas of use' and 'non-standard uses'?

While the ability to burrow bait and apply the product in open areas stands out, here is the full list of 'where' and 'what' can be done. Note that another favourite of PCN, in terms of labels, is the phrase 'covered and protected bait points' which allows the operator to use their ingenuity for best results...natural cover!

- Indoors
- Around buildings
- Open areas
- Waste dumps
- Direct application to rodent burrows
- Covered and protected baiting points
- Within rodent stations
- Permanent baiting

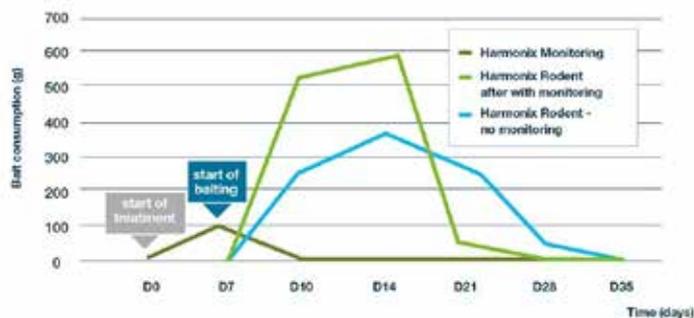
Sounds good but what about palatability?

Field trials and test data show a good level of palatability and consumption, as is to be expected with modern rodenticides. In fact, the bait, presented in 20g sachets, is described as having had its palatability 'optimised'. The rest is up to the operator then!

Is using the monitoring bait and the rodenticide bait really worth the effort?

We asked Bayer the same question and found it interesting to hear that they ran a comparative field trial against Brown Rats on two sites. Specifically, we were told, "In this trial, monitoring with 100g of Harmonix Monitoring contributed to a full control one week earlier and saved one week of baiting".

Here is a graphical representation:



Anything else?

Yes! The packaging – Bayer have covered all angles with a flexible outer than means storage is easier. The packaging has up to 80% less plastic than some rodenticide containers, therefore reducing plastic waste. It might seem like a small point compared to some of the main features of cholecalciferol...but, as ever, the devil is in the detail and "details matter - it's worth waiting to get it right."



Always use rodenticides safely and read the product label before use

Prallethrin – how does it work and what does it do?

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Prallethrin is a fast-acting insecticide active ingredient, classed as a synthetic pyrethroid, that affects the nervous system. The quick knockdown effect is particularly beneficial when included as the ‘free’ ingredient in an otherwise residual microencapsulated insecticide. The freely available prallethrin provides an initial knockdown of insects while the microencapsulated active ingredient (1R-trans phenothrin is a good example) is responsible for longer-term residuality.

Prallethrin is not commonly seen in the UK pest control market, so let’s learn something more about it.

How does it work?

The Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) have it listed as group 3 and sub-group 3A – confirming it as a synthetic pyrethroid with the mode of action described as a ‘sodium channel modulator’. Well, that sounds a bit heavy going so let’s have an explanation of how that works.

Pyrethroids act on the nerve axon - the nerve ‘fibre’. They bind to the voltage-gated sodium channel, which is a protein in nerves. When operating normally, this protein opens and shuts. Opening causes electrical stimulation of the nerve and closing terminates the nerve signal. Continued nerve stimulation is caused by pyrethroids binding to this gate and stopping it from closing in the normal way. With this ‘gate’ wide open, continuous nerve stimulation occurs.

Still heavy going? Maybe... If so, just remember that the way prallethrin works is the reason why we see tremors in treated insects. They have lost control of their nervous system and this is why their movements become uncoordinated. Of course, it works on contact with insects.

How is it made?

Synthetic pyrethroids are synthesised chemicals that mimic the natural insecticide pyrethrin. Chrysanthemum flowers, of the family Compositae, are well known for having pyrethrins in their flower heads. These insecticides knock down insects quickly. It makes sense then, that scientists have been able to synthesise ‘copies’ of the pyrethrins and add some stability to produce the synthetic pyrethroids. Taking some inspiration from nature!

It is a ‘type 1’ pyrethroid which means it is a non-persistent fast knockdown option versus ‘type 2’ pyrethroids which are residual. It was described as a ‘new pyrethroid’ in a 1987 Japanese research paper by Matsunaga *et al*, so it does have a history of successful use, just not something seen that much in the UK. Manufactured and first introduced to the world by Sumitomo, it is reassuring to hear that it is an established active ingredient.

What formulations has prallethrin been in?

Various formulations have featured prallethrin and these include aerosols, emulsion concentrates and oil-in-water emulsions. Of most interest now is the use of prallethrin, as the ‘free’ active ingredient for quick knockdown, within a microencapsulated product featuring a second ingredient for residuality.

Target species

Prallethrin is a broad-spectrum insecticide with known and proven efficacy particularly in other countries beside the UK. Species covered within the broad spectrum are cockroaches, housefly and mosquitoes. An example product has a wide range of areas of use and many named species on the label, covering a very broad range, for example: flying and crawling insects including ants (*Lasius niger*), bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*), German and Oriental cockroaches (*Blattella germanica* and *Blatta orientalis*), litter beetles (*Alphitobius diaperinus*), poultry red mites (*Dermanyssus gallinae*), flies such as house fly (*Musca domestica*), stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) and horn fly (*Haematobia irritans*), mosquitoes (*Aedes* spp and *Culex pipiens*), food moths (*Ephestia kuehniella* and *Plodia interpunctella*), wasps (*Vespula germanica*) and European hornets (*Vespa crabro*).

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Budding new technician

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My nine year old grandson Bobby has always been very interested in natural history, something we have always encouraged. He has also asked me many questions about wildlife and how to spot the signs and tracks of the various animals encountered mainly by the rural technician.

Recently after an old shed was removed from a garden several houses away, which was the property of an avid bird feeder, I noticed an unwelcomed visitor in my back garden, (how stupid, he obviously had not realised who's property it was, forty years in Pest Control and one of the founder members of the National Pest Technicians Association) however this gave me the opportunity to pre-bait with non toxic bait and also show my grandson the various evidence and signs. Bobby then asked me if he could try

and catch it with one of my double entry traps, a trap he had spent considerable time setting and springing many times in an effort to ensure both ends triggered simultaneously, adjusting the trigger arms to this effect.

Bobby soon found the place he thought was best and with only a small adjustment in positioning and some careful observational instruction along the way, he set his trap. The importance of regular checking of set traps without disturbance was given, so a quick check before going home was made, and would you believe it, within two hours Bobby had caught his first rat, pretty good for a nine year old, I think you will agree, and not an ounce of rodenticide was necessary!

John Davison (NPTA)



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Well done to the PCN[®] Junior Competition winners!



In the last issue, PCN Junior ran a competition to celebrate World Pest Day, and asked budding technicians to draw their favourite pests for a chance of winning a prize. We had some excellent entries and awarded them with a **bee hotel!**



Roe Deer

They are classed as pests in Scotland due to them nipping the bud of the trees.

Callum Barrowman, age 10



Feral Pigeon

by
Anea, age 7



Mosquito

Drake absolutely loves all bugs, even the ones that other people may not be so keen on. He says 'all bugs should be loved, because they are all amazing!' Drake has been 'reading' 'bug weekly' (PCN) since he could crawl and now loves getting his own copy of PCN Junior. He wants to be an entomologist when he grows up.

Drake, age 5



BY TO F

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To book your place please contact Sophie Newton 01924 268 439.



Health and safety: Work at heights

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Work at height is governed by the Work at Height Regulations 2005, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. We have to remember that work at height is not just above ground, but below the ground can also be included, such as entering a sewer from ground level.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) have recently reported on the figures released by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for 2020/2021. There were 142 people killed at work in in this time. To put this in perspective, this is a real increase from an all-time low of 111 in the 2019/2020 period. The five-year average is 136. The reasons for this are supposedly due to furloughing, Covid-related sickness absence and people displacement along with economic fluctuations, all of which have led to a health and safety suppression. Whenever the economy is in bad shape so is health and safety - the two always seem to correlate.

This is perhaps a little surprising, considering that many during that period were furloughed, working from home, work limited/restricted or isolating and/or working fewer hours. It should be noted too that these figures do not include Covid related deaths (contracted whilst at work).

Falls from height sadly remains the most common cause of fatal injury whilst at work (accounting for 35 in the 2020/2021 period).

WORK AT HEIGHT MYTHS FROM HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE)*

The HSE published a set of myths surrounding work at heights and here are a few highlights.

Ladders are banned on building sites – no they aren't. Ladders and steps can be useful, but, are not justified if safer options such as a platform are available. Work on ladders or steps must be justified and be for no longer than 30 minutes.

Formal qualifications are needed before ladder work - again this isn't correct, you do need to be competent (possess the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience) to carry out ladder work properly. During training, you may be supervised by someone who is competent in the task. HSE are aware that training can take place on the job, not always in a classroom environment. The most important attribute is that the person can apply their knowledge and skills that they have learned.

Using a staircase at work is working at height – no it isn't. Work at height does not include using a permanent staircase in a building.

When using a stepladder, you need 3 points of contact at all times – you can take both hands off the steps for a brief period, for example servicing a fly unit. You do however need to have 3 points for a working position. Don't forget about your knees and chest, they can help with stability too. So, your 3 points could be both feet and your chest.

Ladders are banned to access scaffolds and you could be fined – Another untruth! But the ladders do need to be the correct type. For example; industrial grade, secured to prevent movement, the rule of a one-metre extension

beyond the landing point still applies, along with a handhold point when stepping off. Hopefully, these points from HSE clear up common myths and misconceptions that surround work at heights.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAY SAFE?

You don't need to have official training although it can certainly help. The most important part is competency.

Have your risk assessment in place. Work at height carries its own risks that are not likely to be covered in the site-specific risk assessment, so an extra assessment will usually be needed. By having a risk assessment in place, specifically for more potentially dangerous work operations, we can identify and mitigate the risk by utilising control methods. For this we would initially avoid work at height if we could (advances in insecticide dusting equipment have negated the need for ladders in many cases).

If work at height is unavoidable, then falls must be prevented by using the right type of equipment. Finally, minimise the distance that you can fall and therefore the consequences, decreasing the severity of any potential injuries. This would mean fall arrest systems, safety harness systems, lanyards, and a rescue plan in place. Fall arrest is fine if there is someone to rescue you quickly.

SUMMARY

There are also a few things to keep in mind when working at height if you must work at height. Access to and from the equipment to enable work at height should be clear and safe to use. Equipment being used should be strong, suitable, and stable for the job (it should also be maintained and checked on a regular basis). Watch out for fragile roofs/ceilings/surfaces and adhere to the weight limits on them. Objects can be prevented from falling. For example, tying objects to you on lanyards and utilising edge protection can also prevent items from falling off.

Check the weights a ladder can take and don't overload them. Remember the weight of tools, workbags, and you! It's also important to not overreach from ladders or steps as this can cause them to topple or sway. Ensure that the rest points are stable, when resting ladders against a building, as weaker materials such as plastic gutters can add to instability. Ladders and steps should be used for light, short duration works, no longer than 30 minutes. Only people who are competent should be working at height. Stay safe.

*All references can be obtained by contacting technical@pestcontrolnews.com.



Hydrogen Cyanide in the CRRU Code of Best Practice? What is going on?

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In this article, Martin Cobbald, chief geek of Dealey Environmental talks us through the inclusion of HCN in the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Code of Practice. Is Cymag back? I'm afraid not.

Fumigation and pest control have always been strange bedfellows. There is a plethora of products available to both sectors of our industry but there isn't much crossover. The question must be asked, why not?

When fumigation is often pointed out as being terribly dangerous to humans in the 'wrong' hands, surely that would translate as being very effective against rats in the 'right' hands... wouldn't it?

The differences come from how these products are authorised for use.

We have two authorising bodies in the UK, the CRD for plant protection products (for protecting stuff that is food) and the HSE for biocidal products (for protecting stuff that isn't food).

Sometimes these two bodies don't agree which is when we get labels saying we can use one product for protecting agricultural premises but can't use another product with exactly the same list of ingredients in exactly the same situation (see the recent abortive introduction of Quickphos in 2017).

To complicate matters further each product that is put forward for authorisation can be categorised in one of 22 product types (PTs). These range from the very familiar (see Rodenticides- PT14, Insecticides- PT18) to the downright sexy and obscure (see Slimicides- PT12 which evidently need a product type all to themselves).

This gives rise to a very familiar issue of the same products in different packaging having completely different fields of use. Take for example the situation of being able to use aluminium phosphide tablets for rats and rabbits (PT14), where you have to use a tiny 90g flask, but you can't use a bigger 1KG flask of aluminium phosphide for a bigger job, that's only for insects (PT18)!

This might seem frustrating. It's like we are allowed to look at a toolbox but only allowed to use the spanner draw. But, the registration process is wall-to-wall with specialists in chemistry, biochemistry, health, law, zoology and slime (apparently). It must be said, these people are cleverer than us. I have been to the HSE offices and I have been to the CRD offices and there are people there with deep, deep knowledge

Always use rodenticides safely and read the product label before use

PCN

on the chemicals we use. When they ask the questions involved in the registration of new product (how safe is it, how well will its supply be stewarded, is it effective) we have to trust in them to come up with the right answers. With each registration taking five or six years, we can at least presume they are being thorough!

So how does this relate to CRRU?

A lot of curiosity was aroused by the inclusion of Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) in the revised CRRU Code of Best Practice. Lots of the pest controllers active today will remember using the highly effective Cymag, which was a sodium cyanide formulation that gave off HCN when it got wet. It was a widely used chemical with possible application in a whole range of pest situations. It was a relatively easy thing to get, being in many agricultural supply stores, and you didn't need a license to use it.

In 2021 it is hard to believe that a chemical as dangerous as cyanide was so easy to acquire and so widely used. Even harder to believe that the recommended safety measures were to have some amyl nitrates (poppers) to hand if you started to feel ill. Stories from the use of Cymag range from the tragic, to the dangerous, to the hilarious. A lot of older pest controllers will know of at least one Cymag death. One pest controller told me of going out with their father as a young child being told to cover up the rabbit burrows when they started to see the smoke coming out of the hole. One fumigator told me that, at the fumigation company he worked for, the poppers kept running out... even when they weren't working with Cymag. A quick glance at farming discussion forums will show that farmers, some of whom unfortunately had a track record of being downright untrustworthy when it came to chemical use, were even using Cymag for things like wasps and ants inside buildings.

With stories like this, it is easy to see why Cymag was banned and continues to be banned in the UK.

The HCN that the CRRU guidance refers to is not so unregulated as Cymag. Instead, it refers to pure cylinderised HCN which can be applied to non-domestic buildings under strict license and very limited supply. The product name is Bluefume and it was registered in the UK in 2019 under both PT14 and PT18, that means it can be used against insects and rodents (specifically rats).

It is a building fumigant which is primarily being used in the food industry. Back in the day, Methyl Bromide was the best building fumigant available. When it was phased out in the early 2000s, fumigators were left with two options. One was phosphine which has relatively long exposure times and corrosive properties (to some materials) of the gas. The other was Sulfuryl Flouride which has its own limitations. Bluefume has been touted as the legitimate replacement for Methyl Bromide, having very good efficacy and environmental risks that can be managed.

Dealey Environmental have been using Bluefume for two years under exclusive supply license and I can report that HCN is still very effective against both rats and insects. Studies conducted in 2017 show that around 10x less HCN is needed than the old go-to fumigant Methyl Bromide for the same result.

Using pure Bluefume and Cymag couldn't be more different. When Cymag was applied using the good old "big spoon" or maybe even a pneumatic pump, Bluefume is injected directly into a building using bespoke distribution systems. Bluefume application keeps technician and gas entirely separate and the distribution systems must be safety tested three times and filled with inert gas before a fumigation can start.

We are still in the baby steps of the early stages of using this product while we assess its safety, efficacy and limitations. Come 2023 we will begin training other fumigation companies in the UK in how to use it safely and hopefully we will begin seeing the first availability of the product on the market for those that have passed the rigorous training.

We are tremendously excited about the potential for Bluefume to add to the pest control tool chest. If you have a gnarly rat or insect issue in a building, then we will be happy to talk to you about the potential

solutions HCN has to offer. If Bluefume is a legitimate solution we will be able to do the job and show you how it is done. All being well, we will be able to train you and hand over the reins in 2023.

HCN is back, it's not Cymag and there won't be any poppers, but it will be a great tool for ridding buildings of rats in the future.



Always use rodenticides safely and read the product label before use

A BAIT STATION THAT HELPS TO PROTECT NON-TARGET SPECIES

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Pest Control News caught up with David Hodgson, the enthusiastic and forward-thinking owner of Total Pest Control, to hear about his experiences with a new bait station that is designed to help protect non-target species. The novel bait station, for rats, is designed to prohibit entry by small non-target rodents such as wood mice and bank voles. Slugs and snails haven't been recorded in the bait station either, which is another good reason to consider it.

Hello David and thank you for taking time out to talk to PCN. How did you first hear about the new bait station?

I first heard about the AF[®] Amicus via word-of-mouth. My area-sales-manager gave me the 'heads up' and it made lots of sense to me – a simple way to limit the risk to non-targets when using rodenticides. I also saw advertisements and was contacted by a colleague in Ireland. My colleague in Ireland wanted me to give feedback regarding the bait stations, which was further inspiration for me to give them a try.

What made you want to use it?

I have an open mind regarding new products and I'm always keen to try new things and make my own decisions. Being a small company, I can be quite nimble and try new things quickly. The two tunnels / pipes caught my eye initially. I know how highly investigative rats can be and figured this would certainly be of interest to them. My understanding and appreciation of their biology really piqued my interest. I could understand that rats like to climb and follow pipes / runs etc. Bearing this in mind, I had confidence that they would enter the bait station before I even tried it out.

I've been keeping my eye on the news too. A recent press release from CRRU highlighted second generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGAR) residues in barn owls remain 'stubbornly static'. If I am going to be using SGARs I should do everything I can to limit the risks to wildlife. Preventing wood mice and bank voles, typical prey of barn owls, from accessing rodenticide bait is common sense.

Where are you using it?

They were installed in a skip-yard and in a customer's back garden at home, so both

commercial and residential premises. Both areas with competing food sources, natural cover / harbourage and water sources and rats of course!

How bad was the rat problem?

Rats were jumping out of the skips at the skip-yard, so it was a reasonable level of activity for that site. It took three weeks to control the rat activity at the skip-yard. I checked the site three times a week – I base this depending on the level of activity as well as following label directions.

For the garden job, there were three houses together, so three small gardens in a terrace. This backed onto a card factory as part of an industrial unit. In lockdown, rats appeared to have built up in numbers around the industrial unit. When lockdown was then lifted, the rats moved out to the gardens. For the garden job, I trapped first. The rat traps fit well into the station. I caught 22 dead rats in the snap traps, housed in the AF[®] Amicus, over a fortnight period. It was at this point that I switched to rodenticide use to clear the remaining rats.

Are there non-target species on-site?

Yes, there were some birds of prey and domestic animals like cats and dogs. Although I didn't encounter any immediate and clear signs of bank vole or wood mouse activity, I still used the restrictive bait stations as a precaution. They are available, so I find it hard to justify using standard bait stations in higher risk jobs.

Which products are you using within it?

I've been using second generation anticoagulants, as I'm in an area of resistance to first generation rodenticides. Looking at the updated CRRU Code of Best Practice, regarding SGARs, it says "in the 'risk hierarchy' they present the greatest risk to non-target animals and the environment" so I have a responsibility to do something about this.

Have you noticed good bait take / entry?

Yes, the bait take was at least as good as using conventional bait boxes. I didn't quantify exactly the amounts taken but on average the bait take, and therefore entry into bait stations, appeared to be a little faster than with conventional boxes.

Has there been any slug / snail damage to the bait?

This is an easy one to answer - none at all. This will be saving me money in the long run. I'll say it before you do... "Typical Yorkshireman"! The money aside, if it reduces contamination of wildlife then everyone benefits – I know various birds and even hedgehogs will eat slugs and snails.

How did you get on with setting the height / fixing it in place?

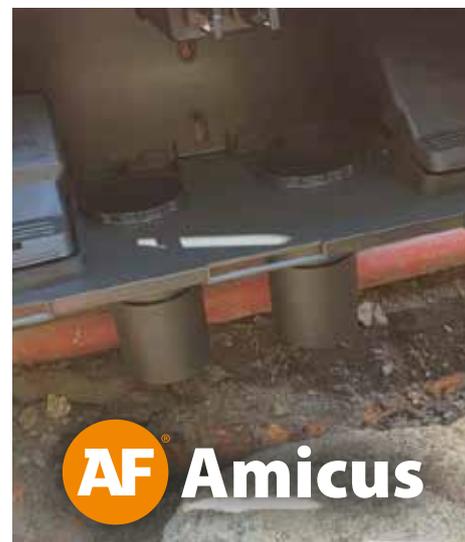
I took the time to use the setting grid that comes with the boxes, to make sure the bottom of the tunnels were 90mm off the ground. Setting the height is crucial, allowing rats to enter, prohibiting certain non-target species from entering. It does take extra time and effort installing these bait stations but I feel it is worth it.

Did you have any customer reactions, to the potentially curious new device?

No, not at all. They were happy for me to get on with it. I think the bait station looks new and interesting to me but it's less obvious, to customers, than you may think.

What general feedback do you have please?

Just to say that the simplicity of the idea is great – I heard it was originally called the 'rat up a drainpipe' and I like that. A common-sense and practical approach to a problem. Apart from that, it just works – that'll do for me!



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Climate change impacts on pests

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Much has been written in the press regarding recent weather events, including extensive wildfires, and the links to climate change. In fact, July 2021 was the world's hottest month ever recorded. Furthermore, there is a wealth of published and peer-reviewed scientific evidence regarding human-driven climate change.

There are many unknowns regarding the impact of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic on pests. What we do know more about is the influence of climate change on pest activity, their ranges and life cycles. Perhaps any combined effects of the pandemic and climate change will become clearer with further research.

While there are more recent individual references regarding the impact of climate change on pests, of public health pest control significance, the most relevant reviews remain those by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health ('The impact of climate change on pest populations and public health' from 2012) and Partho Dhang ('Review of climate change impacts on urban pests', presented at the International Conference on Urban Pests 2017).

Here, we take a look at some highlights of these publications.

The CIEH, quite rightly, focus on climate change impacts on common pest species, especially those relevant to the United Kingdom. The CIEH report is available here <https://www.urbanpestsbook.com/downloads/independent-reports/>

The paper by Partho Dhang is recommended for those who are interested in an international overview <https://www.icup.org.uk/conferences/2017/papers/review-of-climate-change-impacts-on-urban-pests/>

Rodents

Starting with rodents, temperature is an important factor that affects reproduction in pest rodents. In fact, rodent breeding potential increases during the warmer months and rainy periods. An increase in precipitation can bring about an increase in rodent populations. Hand-in-hand (*or should that be paw-in-paw? Tech Ed.*) with this is the potential for rodent dissemination of pathogenic microorganisms. Quite simply, flooding can displace rodents such as Norway rats *Rattus norvegicus*

from their habitats. Displaced rodents have the potential to come into contact with humans, which increases the changes of transmitting disease. Weil's disease, caused by *Leptospira* bacteria, has increased in incidence following flooding. Aside from *Leptospira* bacteria, urban and rural Norway rats carry *Salmonella* and urban house mice *Mus musculus* are a reservoir of *Toxoplasma gondii*.

While perhaps only anecdotal, and similar observations being made during coronavirus 'lockdown', changes in climate could affect human habits such as an increase in outdoor activities. Linked to this could be an increase in discarded food available to rodents. A further potential complexity, known by experienced pest controllers, is that an increased availability of alternative food sources can reduce bait consumption by pest rodents...

Flies

The response of fly populations to climate change has been modelled by researchers. These predictive models, published in 2005 by Goulson *et. al.*, gave an interesting forecast of fly levels in the future. The common housefly *Musca domestica* and bluebottles / blowflies *Calliphora* spp were modelled. The predictions made by the models matched closely with real data. This indicates that changes in fly populations are mostly influenced by weather conditions versus interactions with other living things.

Looking at likely scenarios of UK climate change, as predicted by the models, fly populations could increase by up to 244 percent by 2080 compared to normal levels. This is a substantial increase and, if this holds true, there may be an increase in fly-borne diseases.

Mosquitoes

Mosquito numbers do increase with higher temperatures, as long as there are enough still-water habitats for their development. Warmer summers and milder winters are a feature of climate change. These conditions allow for favourable development of mosquitoes and can even prolong the biting period of nuisance species.

While wetter winters could provide further temporary breeding sites, drier summers would have the opposite effect. Mosquito breeding sites include water butts and these could be used more frequently, by the public, in warmer conditions. This could be a further breeding opportunity, around homes, for nuisance biting mosquitoes. There are also nuisance biting floodwater mosquito species, in the UK, which

could increase in numbers due to flooding associated with climate change. A balance could perhaps be an increase in mosquito predators due to climate change.

See here for updated advice regarding mosquito management: <https://www.urbanpestsbook.com/downloads/procedures-pest-specific/>

Ticks

We featured an 'ID corner' for ticks, in PCN 126, to raise awareness as UK coronavirus restrictions ease. With easing of restrictions, including improvements in the weather, people may enjoy outdoor recreation than before. This may increase the likelihood of contacting ticks. Climate change could have significant impacts, on tick populations, with the main changes likely to be increased tick numbers and tick-borne disease in humans. Mild winters could be important in allowing tick distribution to shift to higher altitudes. Milder winters also help ticks to feed and continue their life cycle. The growing season for plants continues to extend so more plants = more tick habitat. The availability of plants can also aid development of host animals for ticks.

What about insects that may not be affected by climate change?

An interesting question! Indoor pests are less likely to be affected than outdoor pests. This is because pests that breed and feed indoors tend to be in a more stable environment. For example, temperature levels indoors can be more consistent due to air conditioning. Furthermore, indoors pests are in close proximity to humans and their foodstuffs. This means ready access to waste food or even to humans as hosts themselves.

Ectoparasites such as bedbugs, head lice or pubic lice are unlikely to have their populations impacted by climate change directly. However, indirectly, human behaviour could change and impact on these indoor ectoparasites. One example could be greater movement and interaction of people that then influences distribution / spread of ectoparasites.

A 2009 report by Roy and colleagues listed pest species likely to be influenced by climate change and those not. For interest the list is reproduced, partially, below.

While the impact of climate change is a complicated matter, to quote directly from Dhang 2017, 'It can be safely concluded that climate change and resulting temperature regimens in particular will have profound influence on urban pests and humans.'

Species less likely to be affected by climate change	Species likely to increase in numbers due to climate change
<i>Blattella germanica</i> (German cockroach)	<i>Tinea alternata</i> (moth fly)
<i>Cimex lectularius</i> (bedbug)	<i>Lasius neglectus</i> (invasive garden ant)
<i>Monomorium pharaonis</i> (Pharaoh ant)	<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i> (oak processionary moth)
<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (wood-worm)	<i>Linepithema humile</i> (Argentine ant)
<i>Ctenocephalides felis</i> (cat fleas)	<i>Reticulitermes grassei</i> (Mediterranean termite)
<i>Lyctus brunneus</i> (powderpost beetle)	<i>Culex pipiens molestus</i> (urban mosquito)
<i>Hylotrupes bajulus</i> (house longhorn)	<i>Culex pipiens pipiens</i> (mosquito)
<i>Tineola bisselliella</i> (common clothes moth)	<i>Aedes vexans</i> (mosquito – wetland)
<i>Dolichovespula media</i> (median wasp)	<i>Ochlerotatus cantans</i> (mosquito – woodland)
<i>Vespa crabro</i> (European hornet)	<i>Musca domestica</i> (house fly)



AF® Amicus Stand

The AF® Amicus Stand allows the bait station to be used in areas where there are limited structural fixing points such as walls or fence posts. The stand is made from 25mm galvanised steel with a welded base section which is pre-drilled. The stand comes supplied with bolt fixings and pre-drilled holes to ensure that the Amicus is set at the correct height from the ground. 3 x 20cm pegs are supplied with the stand for use on soft ground such as turfed areas.

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Vazor Phepra

Contains 1R-trans Phenothrin 10% w/w (100 g/l) Prallethrin 1% w/w (10 g/l)

A microencapsulated insecticide in aqueous suspension, for professional use, with rapid knockdown and residual effect of 12 weeks on non-porous and porous surfaces. A non-staining, water-based surface spray, of neutral odour.

For the control of crawling and flying insect pests for spray application indoors, e.g. in homes, warehouses, animal shelters, industrial plants, public buildings and spaces including food handling and storage areas as well as hospitals.

www.killgerm.com



Lureking

Enhanced, ready to use traps with an integrated, improved attractant. Offering protection before, during and after treatment, the Lureking No30 is a lowline trap that can be slipped under shelving and into tight spaces. The traps are a safe, non-toxic solution to monitoring all types of cockroaches. Once assembled there is no need to add a lure as it is already included in the glue. The traps are highly effective for detecting low level populations, but also have a high capacity to be used as a substitute for when conventional insecticide is not safe to use e.g. In the food industry. The Lureking No30 traps detect a potential problem before the population increases, they are ideal for locating problem areas of harbourage enhancing control efforts and allowing pest controllers to intensify treatments in certain areas.

www.russellipm.com

Harmonix

Contains Cholecalciferol 0.077 % w/w (0.075 % w/w pure)

Harmonix® Rodent Paste is a new high-performance cholecalciferol rodenticide which has extensive label usage. This flexible new solution allows professional pest controllers to tackle rodents in a wide number of scenarios including indoors and around buildings, outdoor open areas and waste dumps, furthermore, direct application into the rat burrow.

www.es.bayer.com



SenSci Volcano

Innovative bedbug detection. A discreet and unique design with a clear bottom for easy inspection. It can be used on its own or in combination with SenSci Activ bedbug lure.

www.bedbugcentral.com

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

BEDBUG

In this edition of the 'ID Corner', we refresh our memory regarding bedbugs. As movement of people increases, the potential for bedbug transfer is greater - remain vigilant!

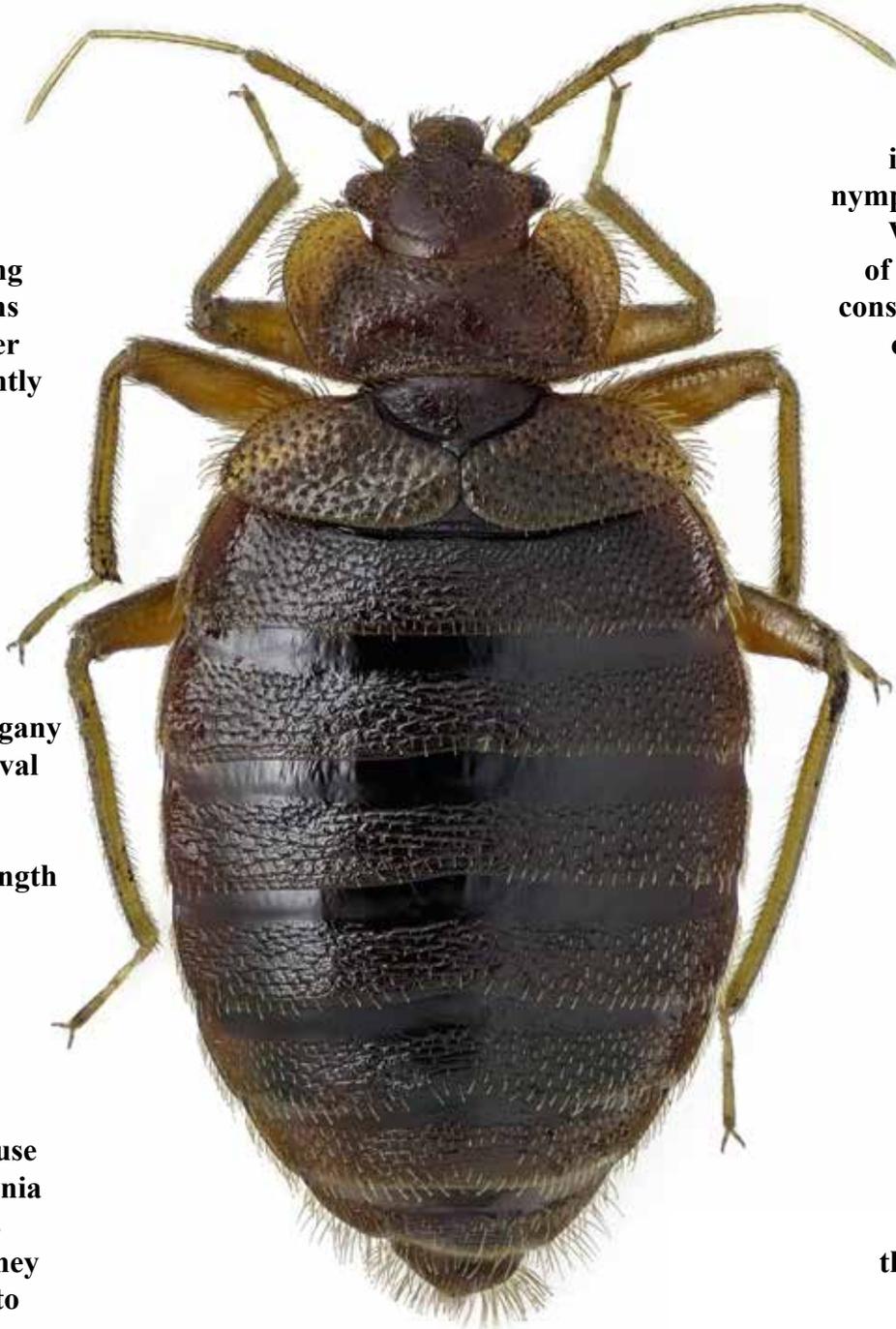
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Cimex lectularius
Family: Cimicidae

Very well adapted to the human environment. Hematophagous, which means taking blood from humans and also from other animals. A frequently encountered and difficult to control pest.

The adult is mahogany brown in colour, oval shaped, flattened dorso-ventrally, wingless, with a length of 5-7mm.

Their bites can cause anxiety and insomnia in people. There is no evidence that they transmit diseases to humans.



Metamorphosis is incomplete: egg - 5 nymphal stages - adult. With the exception of the egg, they must consume blood in each of the different life stages.

The adult, when fed, lives between 6 and 9 months. In the absence of a host, to take a blood meal from, adult bedbugs can stay dormant for more than 1 year in cool conditions.

The female can produce around 400-500 eggs throughout her life.



Visit the Public Health England website for further information and to be 'tick aware' <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tick-surveillance-scheme>

Also visit the NPAP CIEH website to download the pest control procedures manual for ticks www.urbanpestsbook.com

NPTA make their final plea for members to register their opinion on glue boards!

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In a shock move NPTA members decided, almost unanimously to back the proposed private members bill brought forward by Jane Stevenson MP, to ban glue boards, or at least that's how it feels!

The NPTA, in consultation with the BPCA through the PMA, have been asking members to state their opinion on this proposed bill. We have held two consultation meetings and launched a member poll to ascertain members viewpoints and the lack of response has been telling. Of the 944 member companies that were invited to join in with the consultation meetings, only 13 attended. A total of 1333 members (including individual members) were asked to complete a poll.

At the time of writing (10th August), we have only had 53 responses to the poll!

This association is set up to support members and listen to your points of view on key factors that affect how the industry is run. Whilst we understand and appreciate that people have differing viewpoints on the use of glue boards as a tool, we would urge all members to voice their opinion rather than wait until it is too late?

Of course there are no guarantees that even if we decide to fight this proposed bill that we will succeed, but it at least gives us an indication of the depth of feeling and wishes of those who perform what is a difficult job on a daily basis.

The following pages give a breakdown of the poll results so far and display a number of graphs that highlight the responses from members to a series of questions posed by the NPTA.

In the meantime we would urge and encourage all members who have not voted yet to go onto the NPTA website and exercise your voice in order that we can reach an informed decision on whether to challenge this bill. Remember, NO VOTE, NO VOICE.

POLL RESULTS

The poll on the future of glue board use in the UK has now been running for many weeks. As indicated earlier, uptake for this poll has been poor, but below is a breakdown of the results so far.

Members were asked a series of questions relating to current glue board use and whether they would like to have the option to use them going forward. 94% of the 53 respondents stated that they had cause to resort to glue board use on occasion, although the frequency varied considerably. Most (68%) stated that they use them on roughly an annual basis, whereas, 24% combined stated that they had used them either monthly or weekly. Only 2% indicated that they use them on a weekly basis. Whilst, from a responsible use point of view, the fact that

68% use them annually is an indicator that the industry is taking its responsibility for ethical use seriously, there is a concern that Government may view this as a reason to remove them from circulation. This may be viewed as too sporadic in nature to maintain what is, for many, an inhumane product.

The areas members are using them is quite significant in our view. 64% stated that they are utilising them in towns and cities. It is clear that house mice in particular are becoming increasingly difficult to control in urban areas due to behavioural resistance and/or cereal intolerance, therefore this may be an indication of having to resort to glue boards to gain an element of control. If this is the case, this would be a good reason not to relinquish an effective form of control to protect public health.

When asked what sectors boards have been used in, worryingly perhaps is that domestic settings were the most common (24%). This could obviously mean that they were being used in an immediate catch and dispatch scenario or for the reasons stated above, or perhaps other reasons. We have long argued that glue boards should be available to protect public health, but only around 12% indicated that they have used them in settings where the most vulnerable people are present e.g. nursing homes, hospitals and schools etc. Whilst this may not necessarily be a true representation of the facts (low voting in the poll) it is this that Government will be potentially looking at most closely. Nevertheless, nearly 40% of glue board use has been where food is present and it could certainly be argued that this is a benefit in protecting public health, as rodents are well known vectors for many pathogenic (harmful) micro-organisms.

Respondents overwhelmingly voted in favour of keeping the option to use glue boards going forward (90%). However, it has to be remembered that this may not be reflective due to the low turn out. Of those who voted no, the humaneness of the product was the main reason. Whereas, where all other options have failed was the main reason for voting yes. This is a positive statement as it indicates that users have been utilising these products responsibly and in accordance with the PMA code of best practice.

We then asked if members were prepared to contact their own MP's to argue the case for keeping glue boards. Positively, 90% stated that they would be prepared to do this. Why would we ask this? The reason is simple. More voices speak louder than individual petitions.

However, when asked to share information to help build a case for the defence, only 56% of respondents stated that they would be willing to do this. To be clear, if we are to mount a defence,

then we are going to need evidence. Evidence to show that they have been used to protect public health, and evidence to show that these products are being used responsibly. We have to also remember that whilst much of the misuse of glue boards is likely to be by amateur users and non-professionals, it may well be perceived that even professionals are misusing glue boards and we need evidence to show that this is the exception rather than the rule. On that point, and as stated in previous newsletters, we need to be extremely diligent when following the code of practice to help avoid any potential criticism.

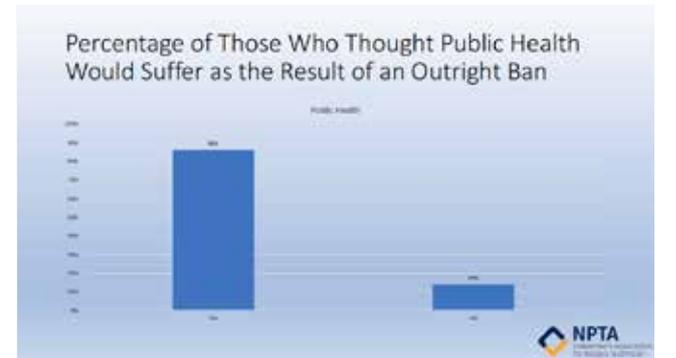
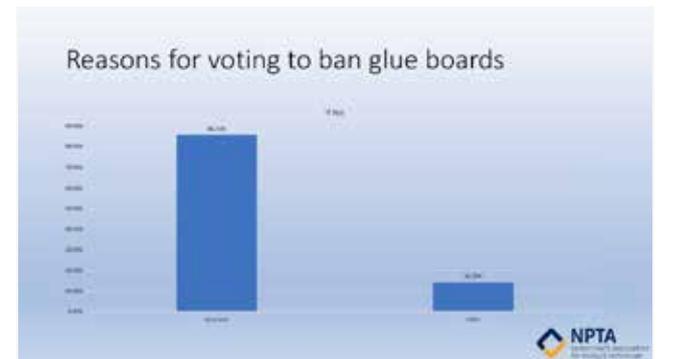
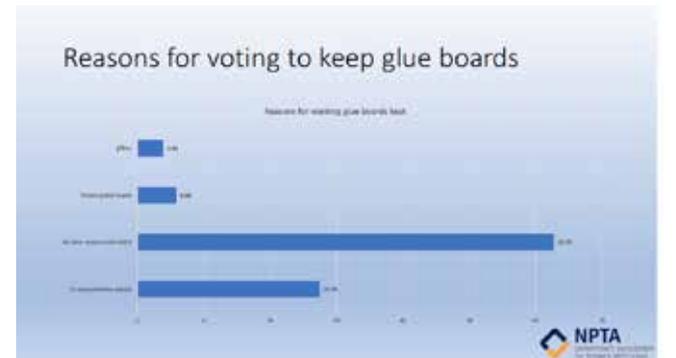
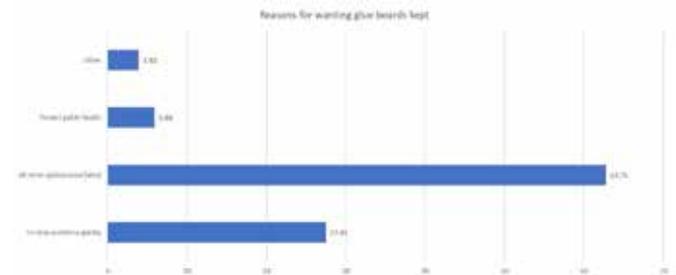
If we go on the poll alone, it would appear that most are in favour of keeping glue boards as a method of rodent control. However, when we examine the number of people who responded to (a) the poll and (b) the consultation meetings, this tells a very different story, with nearly 97% of those eligible to vote not doing so.

It's a very similar story with attendance at the two consultation meetings we ran. These meetings were scheduled for times when most wouldn't be working (5pm and 7pm) to encourage uptake. However, attendance at the meetings was very poor. It was telling that at one of the meetings 67 people liked a post on social media about the meetings, yet only 5 were in attendance!

Overall, the future of glue boards is very bleak based on these statistics. It will be very difficult to mount a case to Government, when it appears that by and large most of our members are happy to let them go. Whilst we appreciate that people have different views on these products, you should at least take the time to air that view so that we have a broader picture regarding the depth of feeling.

The concern of course is that we as an industry have lost a large number of control measures over the past ten years, including liquid concentrates, mouse contact tubes and contact dusts. This is just another progression in the steady decline of readily available control devices.

The poll remains open, so please exercise your right as an NPTA member and vote. One final point, just remember when they're gone, they're gone! The poll is available on the members area of our website only to prevent any trolling and abuse. It is available at: www.npta.org.uk/member-corner/ Below and to the side are a few more graphs highlighting the results so far with regard to other questions posed



NUMBER OF POLL VOTES

MEETING ATTENDED



■ Voted ■ Didn't Vote

■ No ■ Yes

Let's keep glue boards (For the pros)



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In June, the UK government issued details on the Glue Traps (Offences) legislation designed to ban the sale of rodent glue boards in England and Wales.

British Pest Control Association has begun its lobbying efforts to keep rodent glue boards in the toolkits of pest professionals. BPCA Chief Exec Ian Andrew looks at what it'll take to save rodent glue boards for pros. BPCA has spent a month talking to members, consulting with lobbyists and researching the scientific and social ramifications of banning glue boards.

It's easy to see why glue boards have come under attack. Even when used properly, the very idea of catching a rat or mouse in this way fills the general public with horror.

When you factor in images of robins, cats and hedgehogs stuck on the devices, any rational argument about public health is lost to the far stronger emotional response.

However, that public health argument needs to be made. In some niche circumstances, glue boards are pivotal to protect care homes, hospitals, infrastructure, food and some of the most vulnerable people in society. We believe we're in a position to influence the private member's bill. But it's not going to be easy.

The desire to see glue boards banned reaches throughout the government, animal welfare groups and into the hearts of private citizens.

We'll need the support of the entire sector if we're to be successful in protecting your toolkit.

Representation

Part of BPCA's strategy is to represent our members and the wider sector to decision-makers.

As an industry, we've not always been great at having our voices heard. Last year, our successful campaign for key worker status went some way to get our tiny sector on the radar of government departments.

However, I'm sure we can all agree that there've been plenty of top-level decisions made that would have benefited from someone advocating for pest professionals.

We're working towards being that representative for the pest

management sector, and the Glue Boards (Offences) Bill will put our lobbying powers to the test.

Win or lose, pest management's voice must be heard. *(Note that the Pest Management Alliance, comprised of the BPCA, NPTA and CIEH, have a key role in stewardship of rodent glue boards - Tech Ed.)*

Your support

We've had an incredible amount of support from our members thus far. In our member summits and over many emails/phone calls, we've heard the view of everyone from all sorts of pest management businesses. Some of our members have produced papers, and our volunteer board have discussed our influencing strategy at length.

Thank you to everyone who has put their time and effort into assisting us thus far. But now, we need a little more help to create real change.

How to help

Whether you're a BPCA member or not, you can support our campaign to have glue boards protected for public health pest management. Our opposition has presented stories of animal welfare issues and non-target captures to make their argument.

Now we need to tell our own stories (or rather, your stories). We're asking every technician and pest management business owner to give 10 to 15 minutes of their time to complete our Save Professional Glue Boards survey.

The survey asks you to provide a case study of a situation where a glue board has protected human lives.

We'll ask if you'd be willing to write to your local MP. If your case study is selected, BPCA will help you write this.

The more detail you can provide - the better!
Without everyone's support, we'll likely fall at the first hurdle.

You can take part at:
bPCA.org.uk/glueboards

Five Years of BASIS & CRRU

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Since the UK Rodenticides Stewardship Regime started in 2016, BASIS has worked with the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) to promote sustainable use of professional rodenticides. This programme has now been supporting the pest control industry for the past five years, and it is therefore the perfect time to reflect on the impact this scheme has had, and how BASIS has supported it.

From the start, a key part of the stewardship regime was to ensure that anyone purchasing professional rodenticides could prove their competence having successfully completed a period of training and a formal assessment, or as a member of a CRRU-approved farm assurance scheme. BASIS supports multiple CRRU-approved courses to help facilitate this, and it has been great to see since the outset a huge number of new entrants to the industry meeting this required level of competence.

Following completion of a professional qualification, CRRU strongly recommends that pest technicians continue to develop their knowledge through a recognised Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme. The PROMPT Register, administered by BASIS, is widely recognised throughout the industry and facilitates this continuation of learning through a range of approved CPD activities. This includes a number of events and resources provided by CRRU which focus on rodenticide stewardship and best practice when using professional products.

A critical dimension of BASIS support for rodenticides stewardship is a Rodenticide Point-of-Sale Audit, launched in 2018. This independent audit ensures any company supplying professional rodenticides carries out the required competence checks at point-of-sale, therefore preventing professional rodenticides being sold to unqualified customers. The level of compliance has been extremely high, with 93% of outlets achieving certification in 2020.

CRRU chairman Dr Alan Buckle says,

“Any success that we have had in changing hearts and minds about the way rodenticides should be used is in no small part assisted by support from BASIS. The stewardship regime simply could not operate in the way it does without such point-of-sale controls.”

BASIS continues to support the pest control industry through our qualifications, PROMPT Register and point-of-sale audits, and we are looking forward to continuing our work with CRRU over the next five years and beyond.



☎ 0113 245 0845 ✉ giles.ward@milnerslaw.com or uk.linkedin.com/pub/giles-ward/31/187/6b3 [@MilnersGiles](https://twitter.com/MilnersGiles)

COVID *another lockdown?*

As of 11th August 2021, the worldometer tells me that there has now been 205 million cases of Coronavirus with some 4.3 million deaths. Taking those figures with a healthy dose of cynicism, one can probably surmise that they are on the very conservative side of things. But just taking the numbers as they are, over 4 million people have died of Coronavirus. In terms of global losses, Statista accurately says that there is no way of saying what the global economic damage will be but suggests its above 3 trillion US dollars.

So what can we accurately say about Covid, its various deadly variants and ensuing wreckage around the world? Well, firstly, most of us reading this will know someone who has had it, or worse – passed away from it directly or indirectly. It's also probably fair to say that It's had an effect on your workplace, colleagues, market and way of life. Is it here to stay? Quite possibly.

And so from our soon to be rainy, wintery island in the North Sea – how do things sit legally at the moment, since no longer have our borders and cold winter seen things off for once sadly?

Well, in some ways it's business as normal – time limits still exist and there is no waiving matters such as limitation (when you can bring a case to court by issuing a claim). I always take the black and white stance on such matters. So, where it is humanly possible, don't get into any arguments on it – get your claim issued and served nice and early, since the risk of losing a challenge on limitation means you won't have any claim to bring. But whilst that side of things is business as normal, please don't be expecting your lawyer to run down to court and issue your claim on the last possible day, since some courts are still not operating as they

once did, some have not opened, and others have quarantine rules about arriving documentation.

Force majeure and frustration will now be commonly used expressions, and, as always, sometimes they will be used truthfully... and sometimes not. Is your supplier trying to use Covid as reason to resile from their contractual obligations? Just remember that trying to rely on force majeure isn't applicable just because performance has become more expensive or harder to achieve – it must have become impossible.

Similarly, has the contract really been frustrated? Has an event (Covid) occurred that was unforeseen and outside of anyone's control (probably), AND made performance impossible (quite possibly not) or makes the performance into something so radically different that it makes it unfair (bit of scope to argue). The effect of frustration is to end the party's contractual obligations, so it is serious.

Beware of those who will seek to renege defaulting wilfully or seeking to terminate your contract unlawfully, as that will have a knock-on effect, especially if you are part of a supply chain. Equally, be both sympathetic and wary of requests to vary the terms you previously agreed.

As with a lot of these things, they simply break down to relationships, and the strength of those between parties, your advisers and funders. But careful thought needs to be used on a case by case basis.

If anyone needs to speak or wants to discuss any legal matters confidentially please feel free to call me on 07789 401 411 or e mail me giles.ward@milnerslaw.com

Your guide to the pest control 2021 TRAINING DATES



We're looking forward to welcoming you back!

We have put everything in place to ensure our training facilities are COVID-19 secure, allowing you to focus and enjoy all our educational experiences.

We hope to see you soon ~ The Killgerm® Training Team

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 235-237. For further information or to book your place on a course call: **01924 268445** or email training@killgerm.com.

September 2021

09/09/2021 Trapping Techniques – Southampton

09/09/2021 Drainage investigations & rat control - Livingston

13/09/2021 Bird Control - Theory - Holmes Chapel

14/09/2021 Bird Control - Practical - Holmes Chapel

16/09/2021 Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control – Reading

21/09/2021 Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control – Lingfield

21/09/2021 Pest Control Refresher/Update – Tamworth

22/09/2021 - 23/09/2021 Killgerm Principles of Insect Control – Lingfield

22/09/2021 Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control - Portishead, Bristol

23/09/2021 Drainage investigations & rat control - Ossett

28/09/2021 Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas – Tamworth

28/09/2021 Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control – Norwich

29/09/2021 - 30/09/2021 Killgerm Principles of Insect Control – Norwich

30/09/2021 Pest Control Refresher/Update - Huntingtower Hotel, Perth

These dates are to be reviewed in accordance with government guidelines

Some courses remain available online. <https://training.killgerm.com/>



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- In testing, there was no evidence of non-target species such as wood mice and bank voles entering the box.
- Slugs and snails have also not been observed to enter, which helps to prevent rodenticide damage.
- When set to the correct height, the unique patented downward facing tubes naturally attract rats and allow them to climb up into the box, giving access to the rodenticides or traps inside.
- Accommodates many bait formulations and can also be used with break-back rat traps if required
- Readily accessible by the technician and with a removable door that also acts as a useful shelf, AF® Amicus will hold many of the usual types of rodenticides and traps.
- The AF Amicus stand is now available! The stand allows the box to be positioned away from a wall.



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