

Using Pesticides to Control Vermin**Scope**

This control sheet is part of the ILO Chemical Control Toolkit. You should use it when the toolkit recommends control approach 2 - personal protective equipment for using pesticide. The sheet gives good practice advice on exposure control. It can be applied to all tasks in applying vermin control products. It describes the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an adequate level. For certain products, your local authority or environmental agency may impose special rules. This sheet identifies the minimum standards to protect your health. It should not be used to justify a lower standard of control than that which may be required by the product label. That label often has detailed information, which you should always follow.

Access

- Make sure someone else knows what you are doing.
- Keep people away while you are blowing powders. You may need help in blocking burrow entrances once the application is finished.
- Deny access to the bait by people and non-target animals.

Design - environment

- Keep products in secure storage. Lock them away in a place free from moisture and sunlight. Make sure that the store can hold back spillages.
- If you mix your own bait from concentrate (**see Control Sheet P101**)

Treatment by gassing (burrows)

- Do not gas vermin within 10 metres of dwellings. Block as many burrow entrances as you can find, except one.
- The methods of application are through blowing gassing powder, or placing gassing pellets. Then block the last burrow entrance.
- You must use a respirator and wear clean cotton coveralls, protective gloves and footwear when blowing gassing powder. Make sure the respirator is fitted with the right cartridge for the product you are using.
- If using gassing powder, take great care to avoid skin contact.
- Wipe your equipment down, and wash your hands and wipe gassing powder from your clothes with a wet cloth before removing your respirator. Dispose of the cloth.
- When placing gassing powder or pellets, you may need a respirator and you should wear clean cotton coveralls, protective gloves and footwear.
- Tell the landowner and land workers what you have done, and exactly where. Tell them not to collect dead animals.

Treatment by baiting (warehouses, sewers, nests, etc.)

- Place bait where you know the animals feed or run or nest.
- Bait can be powder, loose grain, wax blocks, drinking water or foodstuff mixed with concentrate. Make sure that non-target animals are denied access to the bait, so far as this is possible.
- If the product label says nothing, wear clean cotton coveralls, protective gloves and footwear.
- If placing or retrieving bait placed in confined places (e.g. sewers, drains), don't enter until it is safe to do so. Check for hazardous or flammable substances and sufficient oxygen (between 19.5% and 22%). Note that entry or the work may give rise to a hazardous situation, e. g. disturbing sludge, welding may deplete oxygen.
- Tell the landowner and other people living nearby what you have done, and exactly where. Tell them not to collect dead animals.
- Return regularly to check whether the bait has been eaten. If it has not been eaten in two weeks, remove it.
- If the bait has been eaten, search for dead animals.

Pesticide post-application

- Baits require a period of time to work. Prevent access to the placed bait.
- Keep bait away from watercourses.
- Collect uneaten bait regularly and collect dead vermin promptly. Place these in a polythene bag, and seal for disposal or burning.

Protective equipment

- Check the product label or material safety data sheet or ask your supplier to tell you what personal protective equipment you need.
- Wash your coveralls at the end of the day's work.
- Throw disposable gloves away every time you take them off.
- If you use non-disposable gloves for gassing powders or pellets, before you take your gloves off, wash them in soapy water and wipe up dusts on your clothes with a cloth. Keep your respirator on until after you have cleaned up.
- Look after your protective equipment. When not in use, keep it clean and store it in a clean, safe place, separate from normal clothing. Change your protective equipment when it is damaged.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- Clean up all spills - shovel the waste into a sealed and marked container.
- Don't clean up dusts with a brush or compressed air.
- Never re-use a pesticide concentrate container. (See P104 for disposal).

- Wipe up gassing dusts on your blower with a cloth. Keep your gloves and respirator on until after you have cleaned up.

Training and supervision

- Tell your workers about any harmful properties of the substances they are working with and if they need to use personal protective equipment, why this is so.
- Tell your workers what symptoms to watch out for, and who to tell if they experience these.
- Teach your workers what to do if something goes wrong.