

Level 2 Award in the safe use of rodenticides

January 2012

Guided Learning Hours 8 hours

Total Qualification Time 13 hours

Ofqual Qualification Number: 601/6344/6

Description:

The purpose of this qualification is to enable the learner to use rodenticides safely and meet the requirements of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) second generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGAR) stewardship scheme.

Successful learners will be able to use evidence of their achievement in order to purchase second generation anticoagulant rodenticides from authorised suppliers.

This qualification will provide learners with an understanding of why the purchase and use of SGARs is controlled and why other rodent control methods should be considered before rodenticides are used.

This qualification meets all the requirements of the CRRU Training Framework for the SGAR stewardship regime and has been approved by the CRRU Training and Certification work group.

This qualification is approved by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use

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Unit 1: Understand the safe use of rodenticides

Guided Learning: 8 hours

Total Unit Time: 13 hours

Unit Level: 2

Unit reference number: Y/507/3040

Summary of Learning Outcomes:

To achieve this qualification a candidate must:

- 1. Understand the need to manage commensal rodents, their biology and behaviour, *with reference to:***
 - 1.1 why commensal rodents need to be managed
 - 1.2 the identification of commensal rodents and how to differentiate these from rodent species not classed as pests
 - 1.3 aspects of the biology and behaviour of commensal rodents that determine their pest status and / or are important for their effective control.

- 2. Know how to assess a site prior to implementing measures for the management of commensal rodents, *with reference to:***
 - 2.1 how to determine the size and nature of rodent pest activity
 - 2.2 features of the site that contribute to the size and maintenance of rodent pest activity
 - 2.3 features of the site and local environment that may influence the selection of rodent management methods

- 3. Know methods for the management of commensal rodents, *with reference to:***
 - 3.1 the 'risk hierarchy' for rodent management techniques
 - 3.2 non-chemical methods for the management of commensal rodents
 - 3.3 chemical methods for the management of commensal rodents
 - 3.4 procedures to be followed after completion of a rodent pest management programme.

- 4. Understand the requirements for health and safety and record keeping when carrying out rodent management activities, *with reference to:***
 - 4.1 health and safety requirements
 - 4.2 the requirements for record keeping.

Candidates successfully achieving this qualification will have knowledge and understanding of facts, procedures and ideas in the safe use of rodenticides to complete well-defined tasks and address straight-forward problems. They will be able to interpret relevant information and ideas and will be aware of a range of information that is relevant to the safe use of rodenticides.

Content:

1 The need to manage commensal rodents, their biology and behaviour

1.1 Why commensal rodents need to be managed.

Damage to structures and services; diseases carried; risks to human and animal health; food spoilage and contamination; nuisance factors; legislative requirements such as Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949; Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961 and Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 2006 or equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and superseding legislation.

1.2 Identification of commensal rodents and differentiation of these from rodent species not classed as pests.

Distinguishing features of *Rattus norvegicus*, *Rattus rattus* and *Mus domesticus*; biology and life cycles of these animals relevant to their pest status; differentiation of these rodent pest species from non-pest rodents.

1.3 Aspects of the biology and behaviour of commensal rodents that determine their pest status and / or are important for their effective control.

Behaviour of these animals relevant to their pest status; environmental requirements for development of infestation; nature, reasons, sources of and evidence for infestation; behaviour which may affect rodent management such as neophobia and behavioural aversion.

2 How to assess a site prior to implementing measures for the management of commensal rodents

2.1 How to determine the size and nature of rodent pest activity.

Survey methods; determination of the size and nature of rodent pest activity by (for example) sightings, droppings, smell, urine pillars, smears and damage caused; importance of distinguishing mice droppings from those of bats; importance of client information and past history of the site; use of tracking dusts; identification of burrows.

2.2 Features of the site that contribute to the size and maintenance of rodent pest activity.

Harbourage sites and sources of food and water within local environment; features of local environment likely to support rodent pest activity such as communal waste bins, rubbish tips, ponds; problems associated with fly-tipping and bird-feeding; damage to drainage and sewerage systems; building defects, general condition of buildings and neighbouring properties.

2.3 *Features of the site and local environment that may influence the selection of rodent management methods.*

Need for environmental risk assessments; content of and procedure for an environmental risk assessment; presence of domestic animals, protected and non-target species; requirements of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with regard to protection of flora and fauna; extent and type of harbourage; extent and type of damage to buildings and structures; past history of rodenticide treatments; likelihood of rodenticide resistance; avoidance of risk to the public and environment.

3 Methods for the management of commensal rodents

3.1 *The 'risk hierarchy' for rodent management techniques.*

Variation in severity, toxicity and risk of different rodent management techniques; selection of most appropriate and least hazardous / toxic course of action; need to consider treatment outcome required such as complete or partial eradication of commensal rodents; risk of presence or development of rodenticide resistance; risk to non-target animals and the environment; extent of contamination of non-target animals with rodenticides; integrated control by use of a range of rodent management techniques.

3.2 *Non-chemical methods for the management of commensal rodents.*

Hierarchy of control methods; elimination of factors conducive to rodent activity such as harbourage and food; environmental management; good housekeeping of premises; proofing of buildings; repair of pest-related building defects; maintenance and repair of sewers and drains; physical control methods; use and legislative requirements of specialist trapping equipment; types of traps; reasons for trapping; consideration of humane aspects of use of traps; frequency of inspection of traps; baiting; use of glue boards as 'last resort', code of practice for use of glue boards; risk to non-target animals of proofing and trapping; methods for reducing this risk; safe handling of live animals; humane despatch of trapped animals.

3.3 *Chemical methods for the management of commensal rodents.*

Different bait formulations of rodenticides; selection of appropriate rodenticide and formulation with particular regard to toxicity, risk of secondary poisoning and environmental considerations; importance of the product label with regard to statutory conditions of use, directions for use and health and safety requirements; distinction between brand names and common names of active

ingredients; situations where rodenticide application inappropriate; appropriateness of permanent outdoor baiting; resistance to rodenticides; application and inspection of baits; need to avoid exposure to non-target animals; legislative requirements such as the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (as amended 1997) and the Biocidal Products Regulations 2013, or their equivalent and superseding legislation.

3.4 *Procedures to be followed after completion of a rodent pest management programme.*

Monitoring of effectiveness of treatment; consideration of alternative control methods or extension of treatment if treatment ineffective within recommended target period, possible reasons for treatment being ineffective; recovery of unused bait and rodenticide; safe recovery and disposal of dead animals; action in the event of resistance or ineffective treatments; re-instatement of site; need to advise client of methods to minimise the risk of reinvasion such as hygiene, removal of harbourage, food and water and maintenance of buildings and structures.

4 Requirements for health and safety and record keeping when carrying out rodent management activities

4.1 *Health and safety requirements.*

Employers' and employees' duties, responsibilities and obligations relating to Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; need for risk assessments before commencing work on site; requirements of Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002; need for COSHH risk assessments when using rodenticides; identification of hazards such as working in confined spaces and working at height; safe use of rodenticides; use of personal protective equipment; routes of exposure when using rodenticides; storage, transport and disposal of rodenticides, bait and rodent carcasses; what to do in the event of an emergency.

4.2 *Requirements for record keeping.*

Importance of maintaining accurate records; legal requirements relating to record keeping; records relating to storage, use and disposal of rodenticides; survey data, location and number of traps and baits, inspection of traps and baits, risk assessments.

Assessment:

The knowledge and understanding of the candidates will be assessed by a multiple-choice examination. The multiple choice examination is provided by RSPH. A candidate who is able to satisfy the learning outcomes will achieve a score of at least 17 out of 25 in the examination. Strong performance in some areas of the qualification content may compensate for poorer performance in other areas.

The multiple choice test consists of 25 questions and is of forty minutes duration.

Progression:

Learners who achieve this qualification can progress to:

- RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management
- RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management

Centre Guidance:

Recommended Prior Learning:

There are no prior learning requirements for this qualification

Useful Websites:

British Pest Control Association	www.bpca.org.uk
British Pest Management	www.bpm-org.co.uk
Campaign for responsible rodenticide use	www.thinkwildlife.org
*Health and Safety Executive	www.HSE.gov.uk/
National Pest Technician's Association	www.npta.org.uk
Pest Control Portal	www.pestcontrolportal.com

* Free Health and Safety leaflets relevant to pest control can be downloaded from this site.

Recommended Reading:

British Pest Management	British Pest Management Manual
*CRRU UK Code of Best Practice: Best practice and guidelines for rodent control and the safe use of rodenticides	Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use

*Available as a free download from the CRRU web-site.

National Occupational Standards

The qualification has been mapped to the following National Occupational Standards:

Unit ASTPCO1 Assess a site

Unit ASTPCO5 Manage pests

Further details of these National Occupational Standards can be obtained from RSPH Qualifications.

The qualification has also been mapped to the CRRU key subject areas for rodent management.

Special Needs:

Centres that have candidates with special needs should consult RSPH's *Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration* policy. This is available from the Centre Area of the Qualifications section of the RSPH web-site.

How to apply to offer this qualification:

Centres must be registered with RSPH Qualifications. To become a centre approved to offer this qualification, please complete the 'Centre Application Form' which can be found on our website in the Qualifications and Training section. If you are already an approved centre, please complete the 'Add an additional qualification form' which can be downloaded from the Centre area on the website www.rsph.org.uk. Please ensure that you include details of your quality assurance procedures. You will need to attach a CV to this application. Please contact the Qualifications Department at centreapproval@rsph.org.uk if you need any assistance.

Recommended Qualifications and Experience of Tutors:

RSPH recommends that tutors and assessors have teaching experience and a qualification in a relevant subject area, but recognises that experienced teachers can often compensate for a lack of initial subject knowledge, or experienced practitioners for a lack of teaching experience.

Suitable qualifications for the Level 2 Award in safe use of rodenticides include:

- a) Degree or Dip. HE in: Agronomy, Biology, Zoology, Environmental Health or related subjects
or a related discipline that contains modules in pest control
or a degree that contains elements of these specialisms.
- b) HNC/D in one of the above.
- c) RSPH Level 3 Diploma or Award in Pest Management
BPC Diploma Part II awarded by BPCA

Other Information:

All RSPH specifications are subject to review. Any changes to the assessment or learning outcomes will be notified to Centres in advance of their introduction. To check the currency of this version of the specification, please contact the Qualifications Department or consult the RSPH website.

Centres must be registered with RSPH.

Any enquiries about this qualification should be made to:

The Qualifications Department,
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