

### VERMIN CONTROL

#### Site survey

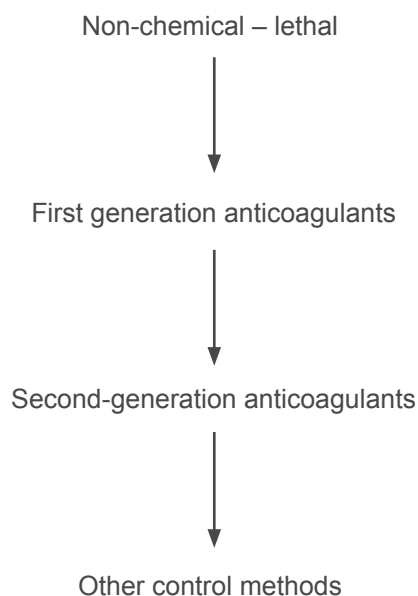
A site survey is a record of every inspection and/or survey undertaken to look for signs of rodent activity or environmental management requirements. The site survey must outline the following:

- Date of inspection
- Locations inspected
- Findings (including type, level and extent of infestation and all potential opportunities e.g. feed spills/gaps/habitats)
- Actions required (including what needs to be completed and by whom)
- Date completed (initials to verify)

Where the site survey identified a rodent infestation, the concept of a 'risk hierarchy' should be used when considering the rodent control strategy. This means considering the use of non-chemical control methods first, followed by the least toxic alternatives.

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### VERMIN CONTROL *continued...*

#### Environmental Risk Assessment

Where rodent control requires the use of toxic bait (rodenticides), an environmental risk assessment must be undertaken before laying bait. The risk assessment must cover the following:

- What the treatment is designed to achieve; what methods of rodent control will be used and how success will be measured
- Which non-target species may be present in or near the treatment site
- What steps have been/will be taken to prevent or adequately control exposure of wildlife/ domestic pet and contamination of the environment
- How dead rodents and rodenticides will be disposed of

#### Bait Plan

Where baits are used, records must be kept of baits used and checks made. Standard MC.3.b outlines the information that must be recorded.

#### Further Guidance

##### COSHH

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation 2002 (COSHH) requires that assessments be carried out to identify any risks to operators and others who may be affected by working with substances hazardous to health, such as rodenticides. If you have five or more employees, you must record your assessment but, even if you have fewer than five, it makes sense to write down what steps you have taken to identify the risks. The Health and Safety Executive provide an e-tool for completing the COSHH assessment, which can be found here:

<http://coshh-tool.hse.gov.uk/>

##### Disposal of poisoned rodents

The bodies of dead rodents may carry residues of rodenticides and, if eaten by predators or scavengers, may be a source of wildlife exposure to rodenticides. It is essential to carry out regular searches for rodent bodies, both during and after the treatment period. Bodies may be found for several days after rats have eaten the bait and rats may die up to 100 metres or more away from the baited site.

It is important to check with Local Authorities regarding appropriate routes of disposal of poisoned rodent carcasses and there may also be recommendations on the rodenticide product label. Red Tractor has been advised that poisoned rodents can be disposed of (in order of preference):

- in an on-farm incinerator for animal carcasses
- with other waste as part of the domestic waste collection, securely bagged in a dustbin or wheelie bin (subject to Local Authority agreement)
- off site at a suitably authorised incinerator or land fill
- by burial on site, provided this is done away from sensitive areas