

THE PEST MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

PMALLIANCE.ORG.UK



October 2016

To Pest Controllers

Recent changes in the 'Approvals for Use' of anticoagulant rodenticides in the UK mean that it is no longer acceptable for these products to be used as permanent baits outside buildings, except in exceptional circumstances. Pest controllers and their clients therefore have to adopt alternative methods to discourage and control rodents that threaten their premises.

Before the use of rodenticide products should even be contemplated, non-toxic approaches such as proofing, the removal of nearby vegetation and shelter, the removal of alternative food sources and the raising of hygiene standards must be considered and documented. Failing to implement such measures, if they are a reasonable alternative to the use of poisons, could be considered a breach of the new regulations.

The use of traps and alternative chemical products would also have to be considered before using anticoagulant rodenticides. The reasons why they were not considered practical alternatives would also need to be documented on a site-by-site basis.

If, in the opinion of the professional pest controller concerned, the use of anticoagulant rodenticides was unavoidable, it should be noted that there are strict requirements as to the procedures to be employed. These will involve frequent visits after deploying the poisons, with their removal from site at the end of the treatment. Only in the most extreme cases of continuing infestation would long-term baiting with these products be considered acceptable.

You should explain to your customers that the old ways of carrying out rodent control have ceased. These new requirements may have financial implications, with the likelihood of more frequent visits to site than at present. It should be noted that this is, regrettably, unavoidable and affects all professional pest controllers. The Pest Management Alliance require a minimum eight visits per year for all member companies.

Failure to follow these new requirements could have very serious implications for those involved. Responsibility for keeping premises free of rodents ultimately lies with the client, supported by the pest controller.

Members of the organisations listed below face possible cancellation of Membership of their professional Association, loss of insurance cover and even prosecution if they fail to implement these new measures.

We urge you to explain to your customers these changes using the attached letter, and do everything in your power to meet these new obligations.

Issued on behalf of the Pest Management Alliance