SGARs stewardship here in the New Year

Sarah Shore and Nicola Gregg from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) were brave enough to join the panel for the Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) workshop, organised by Pest Control News during PestTech 2014.

They confirmed that the stewardship proposals submitted by the Professional Pest Control and Local Authority Sector Group have been largely accepted. The proposals are now going through a final consultation which will be completed by Christmas. This, HSE explained, is pretty much a formality and HSE is not expecting any drastic changes for our sector.

Full details of what it will mean for pest professionals will no doubt be available in the New Year, but as Killgerm’s Rupert Broome said: “The professional pest control sector is in good shape to meet the demands of stewardship because we are already committed to training to RSPH Level 2, or its equivalent and we already have a good CPD system in place.”

He explained how distributors will be introducing more stringent proof of competence checks before supplying products and that manufacturers and suppliers will fund research into residue levels in barn owls so that regulators can measure the impact of stewardship on non-target species. Manufacturers and suppliers have also committed to share, in confidence, with HSE details of the quantity of SGARs they sell.

HSE also explained that going forward all SGARs will be treated the same by HSE, so no distinction between ‘indoor’ and ‘outdoor’ products. However, that is not to say that manufacturers won’t make a distinction. It is manufacturers who decide how they want their products used.

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Standard start!

CEPA CEN service standard about ready for launch

The new Confederation of European Pest Control Associations (CEPA) CEN standard will be launched next spring. It is something that the European pest management industry should be proud of – a professional service standard that provides a ‘quality kite mark’. Associate editor Helen Riby reports.

The new European Standard for Pest Management Services (now known as the CEPA CEN Standard) is reaching its final stages. The official Europe-wide launch date is set as 17 March 2015 in Brussels. Catching-up with CEPA’s director general, Roland Higgins, at last month’s Parasitec event, he was able to add some useful detail on how service companies will be audited.

As the UK’s Dr Chris Suter had pointed out at the PestTech seminar on this subject, without a proper auditing process, unscrupulous pest controllers could simply claim to be meeting the standard when they quite clearly are not. “The integrity and reputation of the standard will depend on having a good auditing process,” he said.

Roland Higgins explained how auditors will be appointed and trained. There is to be a CEPA steering committee to evaluate and appoint CEPA Certified Certification Bodies. He emphasised that members of the steering committee will be from European trade associations, not commercial companies. These CEPA Certified Certification Bodies (CBs) will have to prove their independence and ability by meeting key criteria. This includes holding two internationals ISO standards – 17065 and 19011.

CBs will have to submit a list of potential auditors to CEPA with short CVs to show evidence of pest management awareness. Then, before these auditors can go ahead and do any auditing to the CEPA CEN Standard they will have to undergo special training. This will be organised by trade associations on a country-by-country basis. The process of selecting and training auditors will begin in early 2015.

The CEPA certification process will be valid for three years with an intermediate verification at the halfway point. Once certified, companies will be able to use the CEPA Certified logo. CEPA will be providing a toolkit to allow pest control companies to conduct their own internal audits prior to the official audit. Certified businesses will be listed, by country of operation, in a searchable database on the CEPA website.

From a more parochial UK perspective, it is expected that the UK standards body, that’s the British Standards Institute (BSI), will publish the UK version early next year, so servicing companies will be able to get their hands on the detail then.