

pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

Managing mice

Issue 39
June & July 2015

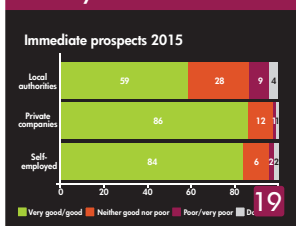
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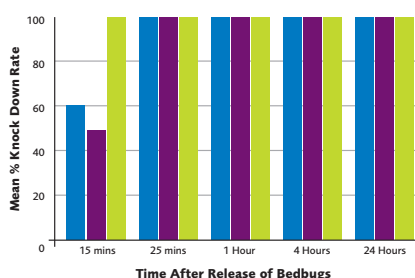
LABORATORY TESTS

The following test results detail the efficacy of Phobi Dose on three types of surfaces. Phobi Dose was sprayed on each surface and left to dry before bedbugs were released. The first graph details results immediately after treatment – the second shows results 14 days after treatment when bedbugs were re released.

■ Textile (ie carpet) ■ Plywood ■ Ceramic Tiles

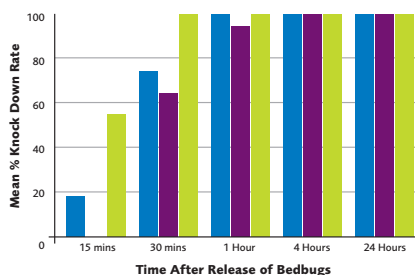
Trial at Day 0

Knock down speed of all bedbugs after treatment.



Trial at Day 14

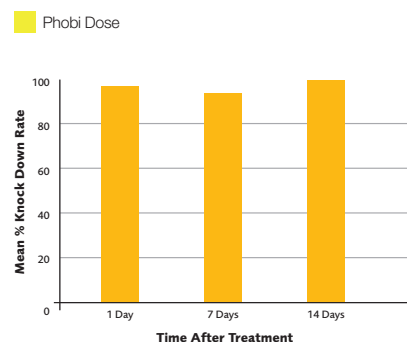
Knock down speed of all bedbugs 14 days after treatment.



FIELD TEST

5 separate apartments were treated independently within a multi storey block of flats. 5 apartments in the same block were untreated to act as a control. Bedbug infestations averaged medium to high in each apartment.

The graph shows the average control in all 5 apartments within 14 days from the initial treatment.



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Aims

As the industry's only independent magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix of unbiased news, impartial advice and topical technical features. We are committed to being as inclusive as possible covering every sector of the pest management industry.

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Always read the label and product information before use

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A technological revolution?

Science, and the technology it delivers, is fundamental to successful pest management. From the first simple mousetrap, humans have applied their ingenuity to defend themselves and their property against pests. More recently chemical rodenticides have offered a convenient and reliable solution to rodent problems. But, there have been unintended consequences for non-target species, hence the move towards greater stewardship. That's not to say that chemical tools have no role to play, just that, maybe, the industry has become over dependent on one type of technology.

As we all know technology moves on. Who would have thought just a few years ago that we would all be walking around with more computing power in our pockets, masquerading as a phone, than NASA used to put a man on the moon! By embracing new ideas such as remote monitoring (see page 15) and integrating them with traditional traps and baits, better, more environmentally friendly solutions can be put in place. And, there's an extra bonus.

Rather than rushing about checking bait boxes, technicians can take on a consultants' role, for example, using the remote monitoring data to recommend more effective proofing.

Frances McKim

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SX Environmental to become Edialux

Following the acquisition of the European distributor, Edialux in 2014, Pelsis has announced a name change for its UK distributor. SX Environmental, a business they acquired in 2012, is set to evolve into Edialux over the coming months.



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PelGar acquires Agropharm

In a shrewd move which took many in the industry by surprise, on 7 May PelGar International announced the acquisition of Buckinghamshire-based pesticide manufacturing company, Agropharm. Both companies have extensive international business with limited overlap. The Agropharm products will expand PelGar's portfolio in the home and garden and crop protection markets. The move will also allow PelGar to introduce its range of rodenticides and insecticides to Agropharm's customers.



Left to right: Outgoing Agropharm shareholders Bryan Shand, Sir Roger Jones and Susan Amass with Dr Gareth Capel-Williams and Paola Capel-Williams of PelGar

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Pest controllers on the acquisition trail

In recent months there has been a small flurry of pest control companies acquiring other companies. Maybe the most interesting was the purchase announced by Rentokil on 30 April that they had bought Bournemouth-based Prokill Pest Control. Although both parties are being very coy and not revealing any details, what makes this fascinating is the question of where it leaves the franchise side of the Prokill business? Traditionally Prokill has been one of the few organisations in pest control who has promoted, and been successful, with this business model.

Earlier in the year facilities management company, Servest, bought Cambridgeshire-based Pest Patrol and more recently Lancashire-based Pestokill acquired North London-based Xpel Pest Control.

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Pelsis take to their bed

On 13 June an intrepid team from Pelsis took part in the Great Knaresborough Bed Race.

This is part fancy dress pageant and part grueling time trial over a 2.4 mile course, taking in cobblestones, treacherous downhill straights and finally a swim, still with the 'bed' and a passenger, through the icy River Nidd.

Competing as the Pelsis Rat Racers, this team of six runners, plus passenger on the bed, completed the course in 24 minutes and raised over £800 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Love the outfit!

Dressed as Cinderella, you could be forgiven for not recognising David Hall – better known as product manager for Rentokil Products. David was running in this year's London Marathon for Meningitis Now to raise money for this good cause following the death of his best friend when David was only 18.

This was David's eighth marathon, and his sixth in London. He successfully completed it in just over five hours, having had one marriage proposal half way round from a gentleman. He raised £1,850 which included £500 from Rentokil, as well as a somewhat smaller donation from **Pest** magazine.



Still dry at the start of the race. The runners are, left to right, Chris Rodgers, Amy Frith, Claire Larcombe, Andy Joy, John Fish and Emily Finkill. The brave passenger on the bed is James who is just 11 years old!

Russell team smash £100,000 charity target

Led by director Diana Al-Zaidi, the Russell IPM team has raised a magnificent £100,000 for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research and they have done it in just four and half years.

A special celebration, held at the company's site on Deeside on 15 May, marked the achievement. The celebration was attended by all Russell staff along with a number of friends and industry colleagues.

Pictured right with chairman of Flintshire County Council Ray Hughes (far right) and his wife Gwenda (far left) is Diana Al-Zaidi (centre left) presenting the cheque to Catriona Tait from Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

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Taking the stewardship message to farmers

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA), the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) and Rentokil took time out in June to attend the UK's biggest arable farming event, Cereals 2015. If you think PestEx is big then this is staggeringly large – it covers 64ha and attracted some 24,500 visitors over its two days. Their mission was to promote the safe use of rodenticides and aluminium phosphide. Dr Burton summed up the event well: "I think that we were all a bit surprised at how little the people we spoke to over the two days knew about the new requirements for users of aluminium phosphide and the second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGAR) stewardship scheme. But many understood why the measures are being put in place once we had discussed the issues with them."

BASIS was also at the event promoting professionalism and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).



Left to right: David Cross from Rentokil, Mandy McCarthy-Ward from BPCA, Dr Richard Burton from RSPH with Killgerm's Matt Davies representing BPCA/CRRU



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UK Quality

Graham Jukes steps down

After 15 years at the helm of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) as chief executive, Graham Jukes has announced that he is stepping down at the end of 2015. He will take up a new role as vice president of the CIEH at the beginning of 2016.

Graham announced his decision in early May, so his successor can be recruited and to allow for a smooth transfer of management responsibilities.



Graham Jukes

New BPCA appointment

In mid-May the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) appointed Gareth Cleland as its new marketing and communications officer. Gareth has worked in several marketing roles before, for such organisations as Sheffield International Venues, Mertrux and the University of Derby.

Gareth graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a degree in business and information & communication technology.



Gareth Cleland

Staff changes at NPMA

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) in the USA is undergoing a series of staff changes.

In early June, Cindy Mannes was appointed as executive director of the Professional Pest Management Alliance (PPMA) – this followed the departure of the previous incumbent, Missy Henriksen. Cindy is already familiar with this role, as she held this post from 2001-2008 before leaving to work with Atlanta-based Arrow Exterminators.

NPMA has also recently posted the recruitment advert for its top position, chief executive officer, to step into Bob Rosenberg's shoes when he retires at the end of 2015. In February, Gene Harrington, vice president of government affairs, left the association after a 20 year tenure.



Bob Rosenberg



Cindy Mannes

Qualification check

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) has issued a list of rodenticide certificates which will be accepted as proof of competence for stewardship purposes. So it's time to check your certificate makes the grade.



Will your certificate be accepted as proof of competence when purchasing professional use rodenticides under the second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGARs) Stewardship Regime? This evidence will be required from 1 June 2016, after which only individuals who hold a certificate approved by CRRU, will be able to purchase and/or use professional SGAR products. Check the table, bottom right, to see if you need to take any action.

Readers will recall that since achieving agreement in principle on the SGARs Stewardship Regime, CRRU is now focussing on implementation. Six work groups have been set up and it is the training and certification work group which has produced the list of approved qualifications.

It comprises 14 'qualifications'. Five are for 'grandfather' certificates awarded from training which is no longer available, seven are certificates that are currently available and there are two new certificates, *Rat Control for Gamekeepers* and the *RSPH Safe Use of Rodenticides*.

The CRRU Wildlife Aware qualification has 'approved update' status. This means that anyone who holds a 'time-expired' certificate can upgrade by achieving the Wildlife Aware qualification. A certificate is 'time-expired' if it is listed as a grandfather certificate and the qualification was gained outside the dates shown in brackets.

If the qualification you hold is not listed then you must get a further qualification, prior to the 1 June 2016 deadline, if you are to continue to legally buy and/or use these products.

CRRU has issued a lengthy explanation of how the work group made its decisions about which qualifications to include. The full statement is available on the CRRU website at www.thinkwildlife.org

In summary, the group first identified 13 required subject areas. These include such things as: reasons for rodent pest management; the importance of the product label; biology and behaviour of rodent pests; the concept of risk hierarchy; effective and safe use techniques; anticoagulant resistance; the importance of proofing;

record keeping as well as safe storage and disposal.

It then set about discovering which existing qualifications covered these subjects in sufficient depth to provide 'grandfathered' certification for those already holding them. This was done in discussion with the organisations who provide the certifications and by looking at course syllabuses.

In some cases syllabuses could not be obtained and there was no way of knowing whether the necessary subject areas had been properly covered. These certifications are now considered to be 'time-expired' and holders will need to update their qualification. This updating can be done either by taking one of the current approved courses, or by taking the new, purposely-designed CRRU Wildlife Aware course with CRRU/BASIS accreditation.

CPD important going forward

The work group has also considered Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The hope was that those holding 'time-expired' certifications might comply if they had participated in CPD activities covering relevant subject areas. However, current CPD recording systems did not permit the work group to find out who had done appropriate and sufficient rodent-specific learning.

Going forward, CPD will be a critical part of ongoing proof of professional competence to the extent that BPCA and NPTA have both made a commitment to HSE, through the CRRU Stewardship Regime proposals, that their members will participate in approved and recorded CPD frameworks.

CRRU Training and Certification Work Group approved certification (June 2015)

Currently available certificates

- RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award in Pest Management (2010 onwards)
- RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management (2010 onwards)
- RSPH Level 3 Diploma in Pest Management (2010 onwards)
- City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (QCF) (PA-R&M) (2013 onwards)
- LANTRA: Responsible and Effective Control of Commensal Rodents (2009 onwards)
- LANTRA: Rodent Control on Livestock Units (2013 onwards)
- Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control (2004 onwards)

'Grandfather' certificates

- RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Certificate in Pest Control (2004 – 2010)
- RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Control (2000 – 2004)
- RSH Certificate in Pest Control (pre-2000)
- BPCA Diploma in Pest Control Part 1 (1998 – 2004)
- NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Vertebrate Pest Control (2004 – 2014)

New certificates

- Rat Control for Gamekeepers (through BASIS)
- RSPH Safe Use of Rodenticides

Update certification

- CRRU Wildlife Aware (accredited by BASIS)

RSPH launch new one-day Safe Use qualification

The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is launching a new one-day qualification specifically designed to meet the requirements of the SGARs Stewardship Regime and to allow successful candidates to purchase and use SGARs after 1 June 2016.

The *Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Rodenticides* is a stand-alone qualification assessed by a short multiple choice exam. It is not a replacement for the full *RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award in Pest Management*, but it is an ideal way for new recruits to be able to use SGARs and so contribute to the business, whilst working towards achieving the full pest management qualification. It will be available via RSPH centres from 1 September.

Understanding resistance

The future of anticoagulant resistance in Europe was the subject of an insightful and instructive paper at PestEx in April by Dr Alan Buckle of the University of Reading. **Pest** technical advisory board member, Richard Strand, of the Pest Information Consultancy reports.

The term 'super-rat' was coined as long ago as the 1960s, to describe then warfarin resistant rodents. Images of blue jump-suited, red caped flying rats were conjured up by the popular press! Mice didn't really make the news despite the fact that, when I first started my pest control career in the mid 1970s, my colleagues were almost in despair about how to control mice, rather than just feeding them.

The advent of second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs) in the early 1980s seemed to be the answer although, there was always the niggling concern that '... if it's happened once, it can happen again'.

So here we are 40 years on, better able to analyse and understand the biochemical mechanisms that lead to resistance and in a political environment where the very use of second-generation anticoagulants is under question.



At PestEx, Dr Alan Buckle explained some of the complex work that has been done on the mechanisms of rodenticide resistance

At this spring's PestEx Dr Alan Buckle of the University of Reading tackled some complex work done on the mechanisms of resistance and translated it into layman's terms. It proved an interesting and instructive session.

We all may have our own idea as to what resistance is and to ensure that we were all 'singing from the same hymn sheet'. Dr Buckle opened the session with a definition of resistance:

"Anticoagulant resistance is a major loss of efficacy in practical conditions where the anticoagulant has been applied correctly, the loss in efficacy being due to the presence of a strain of rodent with a heritable and commensurately reduced sensitivity to the anticoagulant."

Croplife International's – Rodenticide Resistance Action Committee

He explained that resistance is not simple. At a molecular level there are a number of changes, properly called 'mutations', that can bring about anticoagulant resistance. These arise from substitutions of amino acids at specific points along the chains of amino acids that form molecules, such as the enzyme vitamin K1 epoxide reductase (or VKORC1). This enzyme is found in the endoplasmic reticulum of liver cells and is the one affected by anticoagulant rodenticides.

Such substitutions alter the shape of the 'chain-like' enzyme molecule preventing anticoagulants from binding to the enzyme, thereby negating the anticoagulants' deleterious effect on the blood clotting mechanism and so causing resistance.

VKORC1 has been mapped and it has been noted that all of the key mutations occur between amino acid molecule numbers 100 and 140 along the chain.

Because mutations involve the substitution of different amino acids at different points, the resistance may exhibit itself in different ways. When a resistance type is identified it is named by the normal amino acid, the location on the protein chain and the substituted amino acid. For example, the resistance that occurs amongst rats throughout much of Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire, is labelled 'leucine120glutamine' (abbreviated to L120Q).

Dr Buckle described five different types of resistance that have been identified across Europe, one or two prevalent in some countries, others in other countries. All five types are present in the UK!

As previously alluded to, the different types of mutation lead to resistance exhibiting itself in different ways, against different rodenticides. All five types render rats resistant to all of the first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) so that's warfarin, chlorophacinone and coumatetralyl.

The good news is that rats exhibiting any of the five mutations remain susceptible to some of the SGARs, notably brodifacoum, difethialone and flocoumafen. Indeed, Dr Buckle pointed out that: "Whilst there was no difethialone data for some mutations, by extrapolation we expect it to be effective against them all."

For the widely-used products based on difenacoum and bromadiolone the picture is mixed. Rodents carrying the Y128Q and Y139S mutations remain largely susceptible to these actives, L120Q rodents are resistant

whilst those rodents with the Y139C and Y139F may, or may not, be resistant.

Geographical spread

So what countries have what type of resistance?

- The most widespread is tyrosine139cystine (Y139C) mutation which is found in the UK, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland. As well as resistance to the FGARs, this may lead to resistance to bromadiolone and difenacoum.
- Tyrosine139phenylalanine (Y139F) is the next most widely spread being found in the UK, France and Belgium. It has a similar impact as Y139C.
- Leucine128glutamine (L128Q) and leucine120glutamine (L120Q) are found widely in the UK and also in France, whilst tyrosine139serine (Y139S) is limited to the UK, specifically Wales. L120Q is the world's most extreme form of resistance. Present across much of central southern England, it confers resistance to all FGARs and has a severe effect on the efficacy of baits containing bromadiolone and difenacoum.
- With the exception of the UK where resistance is widespread (although with localisation of the various types of resistance) in other countries, most notably Germany, resistance tends to be restricted to certain areas.

Interesting times

As ever, we are condemned to live in interesting times. The extent and complexity of the resistance problem starts to become clear at a time when the very future of anticoagulants is in the balance!

Dr Buckle drew attention to a statement by



the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) that: "All anticoagulants are toxic to reproduction." Because of this, the ECHA has proposed a 'Specific Concentration Limit' of 30 ppm (parts per million) of active in baits – ALL anticoagulant baits; not just SGARs. To put this in perspective, the concentration of actives in FGARs ranges from 250 ppm to 500 ppm. Dr Buckle observed that at 30 ppm efficacy would be negligible, effectively removing these products from the market.

The SGARs currently available have a concentration of, or about, 50 ppm (difethialone products have a concentration of 25 ppm and are therefore inside the proposed limit). The impact would not be quite as drastic as on first-generation products, but the lower the concentration of active in the bait, the more adverse the possible impact on the development of resistance!

Any bait with a concentration above the 30 ppm limit would not be available to amateurs. The prospect of anticoagulants being restricted to professional users only

may seem like music to the ears of pest controllers. The party spoiler, as Alan Buckle pointed out, is the label statement about the products being 'toxic to reproduction'. If clients don't bar the products from their premises altogether, it is likely to be open season for the 'No win, no fee' lawyers every time someone contracts a health problem, no matter what the cause.

Note: both these points were also discussed at the Global Summit of Pest Management Services see page 24 in this issue.

If this concern was not enough, Dr Buckle drew attention to a number of both illogical and knee-jerk reactions by European national governments in response to the resistance data.

The German government has already made SGARs 'professional use only' – when 78% of mice are already resistant to them. The Dutch government has restricted the FGAR chlorophacinone to 'professional use only' – mice exhibit Y139C resistance. Scandinavian governments are restricting the more potent SGARs to 'indoor use only', just at the time that the UK government is easing this constraint.

In conclusion, Dr Buckle observed that if you do not use anticoagulant rodenticides, you cannot induce resistance to them. He therefore proposed the following strategy:

- Use all possible measures to prevent rodent infestation;
- Use non-anticoagulant alternatives wherever possible to control infestations, for example trapping, gassing and non-anticoagulant rodenticides;
- Where FGARs are effective, continue to use them;
- Where FGARs are not effective and/or there is evidence that there is resistance to them, select a suitable SGAR.



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Pests become the stars

TV programmes about pests usually revolve around eliminating them. *The Secret Life of Your House* shown on ITV on 2 June 2015, reversed this approach. Billed as a 'natural history documentary', pests benefited from the full cinematic treatment usually reserved for fascinating wildlife from an exotic location. Rather than the plains of Africa – a 'suburban safari'.

For those who missed this hour-long programme, a luxury detached house somewhere near Horsham in West Sussex, was deliberately infested with thousands of creatures that the public would normally think of as pests. Everything was done to make the introduced pests feel at-home, after which they were left to their own devices to see what would happen over a month. Described as an experiment by Garden Productions, who made the programme, it gave an incredible insight into the ecology that exists under our noses.

The programme was devised and presented by entomologist Dr George McGavin from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. George enthuses over all sorts of creepy-crawlies, although his enthusiasm was somewhat muted when he had to turn into a human guinea pig and sleep in a bed deliberately infested with hundreds of bed bugs. Alongside George was one of his former students, Dr Sarah Beynon, who produced the insect macro images.

As George explains: "The idea of the show was to look at the species that share our homes, not from the point of view of them being pests – there are many programmes that emphasis this – but to examine the natural history of these adaptable and successful animals that have been with us whenever we settled to live in one place. The cave dwellings of early man must have been crawling with stuff!



George with Dr Sarah Beynon



One prop, George McGavin's daughter's doll's house (behind right) needed a good deep clean after the mice had trashed it – more Beatrix Squatter than Beatrix Potter!

"Bed bugs are on the increase and I suppose it was inevitable that I would have to lose some blood in the course of the show. Knowing that I was sharing my bed with several hundred of them kept me awake until well after midnight. I did eventually get off to sleep and, in the morning I could see them, full to bursting, wandering off to find a crevice to hide in. I did not react to the bites until exactly one week later – I had about 60 bites and they were very itchy for two or three days."

Behind the scenes

What readers of *Pest* may find interesting is how the programme was made.

TV producers and researchers do come up with bright ideas, but these often bear little relationship to what is practical in the biological world – you can't just conjure up large numbers of out-of-season pests!

Finding a suitable house to infest proved the initial challenge.

The first suggestion was a terraced house in London. The fact that most of the pests weren't likely to read the 'script' and remain resident where released, failed to register with the producers. Imagine if you were

next-door! Eventually an empty, detached house was found.

Next problem, the stars of the show – the pests. Whole colonies of insect species are hardly available on a 'click and drop' basis. With one exception, the bed bugs, the insects came from Metamorphosis, based in High Wycombe. They bill themselves as breeders and suppliers of invertebrates. As owner, Graham Smith explains: "Virtually all the insects released were specially bred. Amongst them were three types of cockroach (German, Oriental and American), silverfish, museum beetles, larder beetles, bean weevils, carpet beetles, clothes moths, flies, woodlice and centipedes." Quite a menagerie, but no fleas.

The bed bugs came from Richard Naylor, known to many of us for his bed bug research work. This particular pest was saved till the end and was only introduced on the last night – the night George had to become bed bug food – as the crew was afraid of carrying any home with them.

As for the rats and mice, these came from Simon's Rodents based near St Neots, Cambridgeshire. Their usual run of business is rodents and reptiles for pet shops, but they also have a filming side-line. It was their rats which appeared on the 2006 Encams poster to promote the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign, along with appearances in the Beatrix Potter films and *War Horse*.

And, once filming was over, all, or, probably more realistically, as many pests as possible, were rounded-up and returned to their breeders. After this Rentokil was called-in to eliminate any that were left.



George looks forward to a good night!



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BPCA 2014 survey presents mixed messages

On 24 April the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) published the results of its third annual National Local Authority Pest Survey. The survey uses the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information about local authority pest control. Based on the findings, BPCA is forecasting that government spending cuts could spark an explosion in the UK pest population. No doubt timed to coincide with the run-up to the May election, the topic has been widely picked-up by the regional press, as well as featuring in the 26 April edition of *The Sunday Times*.

The survey overview suggests that the recent government austerity measures and local authority cuts continue to have adverse effects on public health pest control services. Simon Forrester, chief executive of BPCA said: "The new figures reveal the number of local authorities who provide a free pest control service has declined by 26% over the last four years. This has the potential to prompt a significant increase in pests, including rats and bed bugs."

So far, so good. Few readers are likely to disagree with this, except that should pests increase, the associated problems could well be solved by commercial pest control companies – BPCA's own members. Perhaps it is this local authority downturn that is fuelling the optimistic feelings reflected in the recently published National UK Pest Management Survey (see page 19 of this issue) where half of all commercial companies reported a profits rise in 2014. Likewise, among those local authorities that still undertake pest control activities, 59% see their prospects as 'good' or 'very good' compared with 40% the previous year. These are likely to be the authorities that have 'upped their game' and are working more proactively, or even increasingly commercially, than before.

An example of such an authority is the London Borough of Southwark. So to see themselves presented in the BPCA figures as the fourth most badly infested authority in the country must be galling. By completing a 32.34% call-out per 1,000 head of population, the authority should be praised for doing things well, rather than pilloried for apparently being the fourth worst in the country.

A copy of the Executive Summary from the BPCA Survey can be found online in the **Pest** library at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/media/245491/bpca-national-survey-executive-summary-2014.pdf



A proud winner

The Charles Keeble award is presented to the candidate who gained the highest mark for the accredited technician in pest control (ATPC). This year's winner was Simon Gunton from Mitie (pictured above left).

Simon's prize was presented by British Pest Control Association's president, Martin Harvey, at the association's annual general meeting. Simon is a technician based in the Hungerford area and has been with Mitie for three years.

BPCA Executive Committee changes

Whilst Martin Harvey continues for another year as president, several changes to various committees were revealed at the recent British Pest Control Association's annual general meeting held on 10 June at Nettle Hill, Ansty near Coventry.

Mark Williams of Ecolab takes over the role of honorary treasurer from Jenny Humphrey of DRE Pest Control who is stepping down after five years in this role.

Philip Halpin of Countrywide Environmental takes over as the Servicing Committee chairman, replacing James Ostler of Positive Environmental Services. However, James remains on the Executive Board as an elected board member, alongside Alan Morris of Bayer CropScience and Lewis Jenkins of Check Services.

Seagulls safe!

The future for seagulls is much safer following the order, on 4 June by the Chancellor, George Osborne, that non-protected government departments must find £3 billion in savings. This reduction comes ahead of a deeper cuts programme to be announced in the July Budget.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has been allocated a £83m cut. It says it plans to make savings through efficiencies and via cuts to 'low-priority' programmes. Details however remain unclear. What Defra has announced are plans to scrap a research programme on urban seagulls. This will save £250,000.

The funding for the programme, which was meant to find ways to alleviate the noise and mess created by gulls, had only just been announced in the March Budget. The money was granted after a campaign by Lib Dem Don Foster, who lost his seat at the election.



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Knowledge is power

A significant proportion – likely between 10-20% – of food manufacturing sites have a resident rodent population. This shocking statistic formed the basis of a talk presented by Dr John Simmons of Acheta Consulting in one of the seminars presented during PestEx 2015.

Acheta Consulting, well-known as independent inspectors and auditors in the food industry, reviewed the rodent infestation status of 180 of their clients over a 12-month period. As previously reported in **Pest** (see issue 33: May & June 2014) the vast majority of sites showed either no internal activity for mice (28%) or occasional/sporadic internal activity (45%). A small proportion (5%) experienced recurring activity due to regular importation of this pest, often on returned retailer trays and baskets. Worryingly, at the balance of sites (22%), mouse activity was recorded as regular and recurring, more than likely due to an infestation resident within the fabric of the building.

Concerned this figure might be an over-estimation of the situation, Acheta posed the question to two pest control contractors they have regular contact with. Their results were not dissimilar.

Mouse control critical

To a food manufacturing company, mouse control is critical; not just from a food safety perspective, but also because of the potential damage to the company's reputation. The image, and associated newspaper headlines, used in the presentation of a mouse found dead in a malt loaf must still cause sleepless nights for some food factory bosses.

Having established there is a mouse problem, control is needed. But how simple

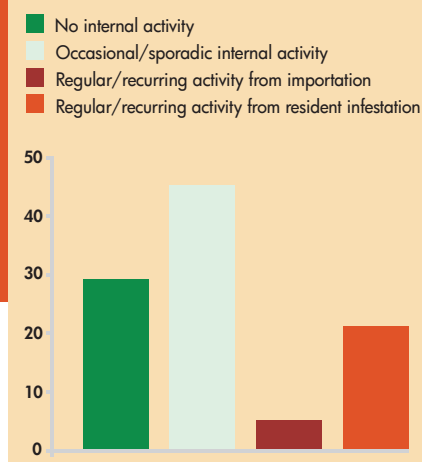
is this? "At first inspection we have a plentiful array of reliable conventional monitoring and control options available – don't we?" stated Dr Simmons.

Products lost

But, answering his own rhetorical question, he went on to say that in recent years, due to product withdrawal, the industry in the UK has lost all rodenticide concentrates, all rodenticide contact dusts, all bar one of the rodenticide contact gels and one (of only two) non-anticoagulant active ingredients. In addition, the changes to the status of the second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs) currently being implemented will cause further issues.

"Rodents are becoming increasingly difficult to control, so anything that tells us more about rodent presence and activity patterns is to be welcomed. One technique we at

Rodent infestations at 180 sites



Acheta have explored is electronic rodent monitoring," explained Dr Simmons.

Of the electronic monitoring and capture systems mentioned by Dr Simmons, one was the Danish developed GreenTrapOnline – a system trialled by Acheta themselves in 2012 and reported in **Pest** issue 22: July & August 2012.

He also mentioned another Danish system – WiseCon – which uses PIR motion/heat sensors which can be used individually, or integrated into bait or trapping systems, as well as the recently released, and seen for the first time at PestEx, Kill-@alert from US manufacturer, Woodstream.

Dr Simmons also referred to the eMitter products from the German company, Futura. Although not tested by his own team, the system has been in use with Mitie and the company's experiences are detailed in the user study overleaf.

Rodent activity detection

Summing up his experience with these systems Dr Simmons said: "Anything that gives us information about patterns of rodent



Woodstream's Kill-@alert



The Futura e-Mitter



A GTO detector

movement and activity is beneficial. These systems can detect activity without the need for a physical visit by the technician, the status of the traps can be monitored remotely and a history of activity recorded – both by the pest controller and the client. They can be used in challenging or dangerous to access locations and do provide the ability to prove a negative – no hits = no rodents – something baits and traps are not capable of. In short, knowledge is power.”

But as with most things in life, there are some negatives. How the system is set-up may be influenced by the building layout and construction. The system may require an electrical supply or battery

life may be limited. The equipment needs to be robust and, ideally, both resistant to water ingress and ATEX compliant. ATEX is the name commonly given to the two European Directives for controlling explosive atmospheres (94/9/EC and 99/92/EC).

For food manufacturers these systems are not yet allowed for in retailer and third-party standards, meaning that issues with auditors may arise simply because they are unfamiliar with this still novel approach to monitoring rodents. Setting such systems up also requires quite a significant capital outlay but, to the benefit of pest control contractors, once in place they may tie-in the customer via lease or rental arrangements.

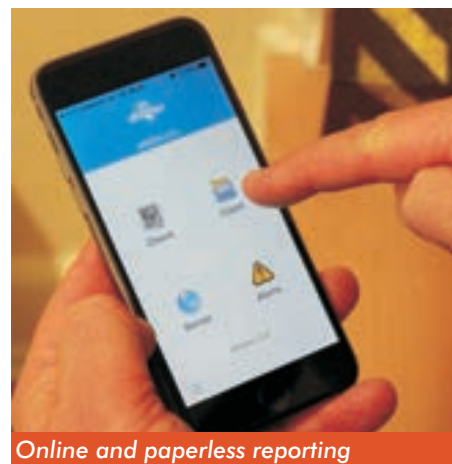
Monitoring pests in real time

Not a company to stand still, one of the ways Mitie feels it can get ahead of its competitors is by becoming a leader in the use of intelligent pest management solutions.

For example, Mitie has developed its own web-based system – Pest alert. Based around an interactive portal, it provides immediate access to real-time data via PC or mobile devices and can cover multiple buildings on a national scale. A performance dashboard shows the status of all monitoring points, a history of pest activity, easy to download reports and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 24/7 monitoring of pest control.

But systems on the ground are required to go with this technology. Coupled with these

digital advances comes the company's stand on the use of rodenticides. Mitie has already gone on record saying that the company sees the wide-scale and liberal use of rodenticides as becoming a thing of the past. In days gone by, the use of rodenticides might have accounted for half of all their pest control activities with trapping making up a mere ten percent. But at the seminar hosted by Mitie in January 2014 (see **Pest** issue 31: January & February 2014), managing director, Peter Trotman, went on record as saying he felt that, in the future, the use of rodenticides



Online and paperless reporting

and rodent trapping would rank of equal standing.

To many, talk of rodent trapping might conjure up images of traps, many of which have hardly changed in design for years, being placed in key locations and visited by technicians on a regular and time consuming basis. But think again. Just as with technical advances for items such as personal computers or mobile phones, technology has romped away in the area of rodent trapping. However, the observant and experienced pest control technician is still key – the traps may have changed but the rodents have not, so correct placement is still fundamental to success.

With their Pest alert system already in place, Mitie selected the range of permanent monitoring eMitter trap systems from German manufacturer Futura. These dovetailed into the Mitie system and offered customers a remote rodent monitoring system that works both in and outdoors, integrating seamlessly Pest alert system.

Each trap type comes equipped with a patented eMitter transmitter that works on kinetic energy, meaning a battery is not



Mitie's technicians have risen to the challenge and have become far more than simple bait station checkers and fillers

required. This automatically sends an alert each time it is activated. Used in conjunction with Mitie's own online portal, customers can now manage their pest risk in real time from the comfort of their desk, whilst at the same time switching to a paperless solution.

Good for technicians too

The benefits also extend to the technicians who used to spend much of their time checking bait boxes and dealing with toxic pesticides. As Peter Trotman explains: "Our staff can now work on preventative measures, such as observing faults in the fabric of the building and recommending efficient proofing in locations where the eMitter system has registered the most rodents. Our technicians have gained more confidence and their job has changed from being a 'bait box checker' to being much more of a professional consultant.

"Also, the eMitter bait stations work with NARA, the non-toxic rodent attractant. The bite marks which show on the NARA blocks clearly show if there is a rodent infestation, as opposed to insects and snails feeding on the traditional grain-based non-toxic blocks. This solution matches Mitie's pledge to reduce the use of rodenticides, whilst improving the customer experience," concludes Peter.

As to the future

For the future Peter can see that the range of rat and mice break-back or live-catch traps fitted with an eMitter gives Mitie an increased number of effective tools to offer their customers. In addition they fulfil the company's desire to reduce the use of toxic rodenticides and also deliver a data-based intelligent service. Knowledge really is power.



A NARA block clearly well-nibbled!



Designed for rats. The new eMitter outdoor station has a signal range of up to 1,500 metres



The EPP mouse tunnel takes two mousetraps. It is made of high performance foam and has an eMitter positioned at its centre

eMitter in practice

A family owned business, Atkins and Potts produce a variety of award winning gourmet sauces and speciality foods from their kitchens near Newbury, Berkshire.

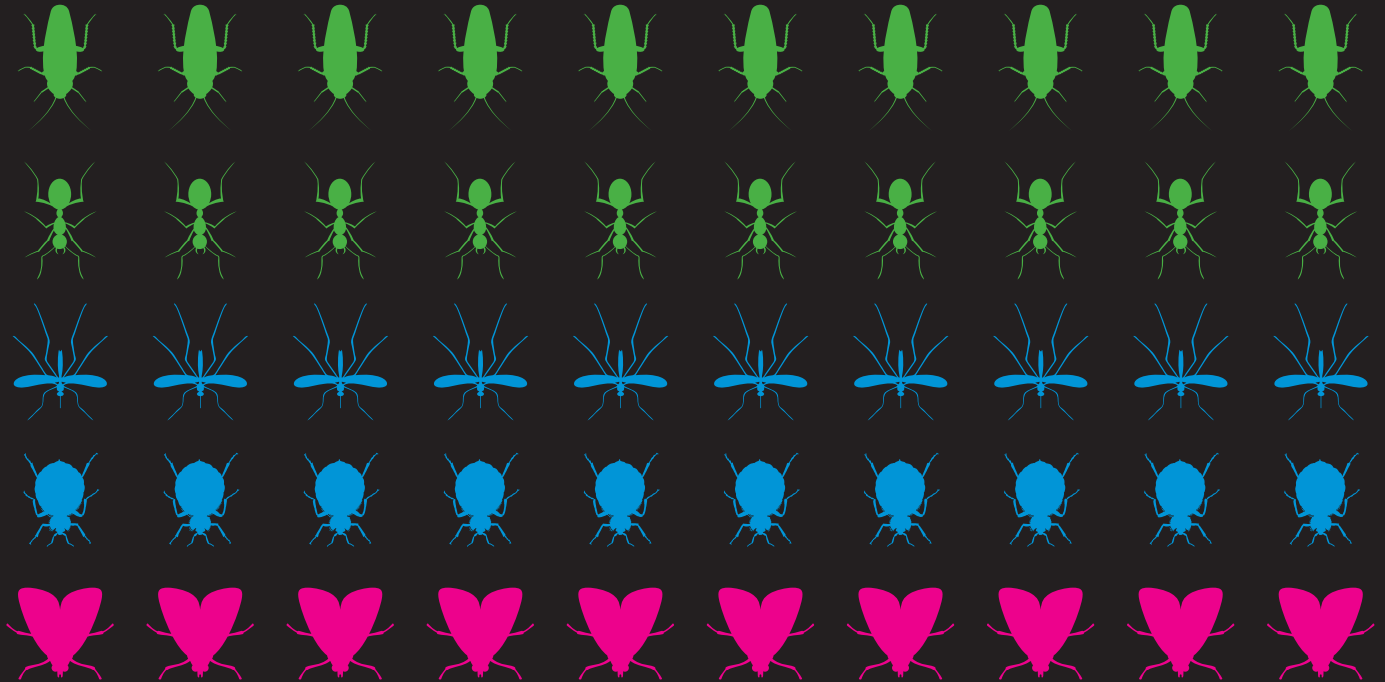
Following a review of their pest control procedures in early 2015, the company sought to upgrade its system and selected Mitie as its pest control contractor. This was based on the scope of Mitie's services, compliance with food audits, technological innovations and also through recommendation from other food producers.

Mitie devised a comprehensive 'intelligent pest management' solution to reduce the pest risk, based on the analysis of different pest factors and the layout of the business. The solution comprised of eMitter remote monitoring rodent units with eMitter Runbox corridors, new low energy electronic fly killer units and access to Pest alert on the Atkins and Potts system.

Following installation, the Atkins and Potts staff were trained and

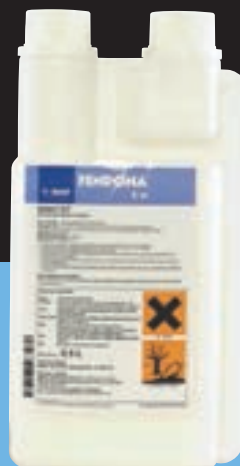
the system tested, with email and eMitter alerts indicating when a trap had been activated. The company has been delighted with the installation team and the solutions put in place, as it has improved how they managed their pest risk.





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Optimism turns into reality

Optimism about the future was reported in spades when the BASF/**Pest** survey measured the mood of pest professionals in 2014. Results from the 2015 survey now confirm that optimism was well placed. In 2014, 80% of pest control companies and 69% of self-employed pest controllers predicted things would improve – and they were right.

After a downturn in profitability in 2012 and a continued squeeze on profits in 2013, both self-employed pest controllers and those working in pest control companies reported a big improvement in profitability in 2014.

Half of all companies saw profits rise, compared to 37% in the preceding 12 months, whilst only 4% saw profits fall, compared to 17% previously.

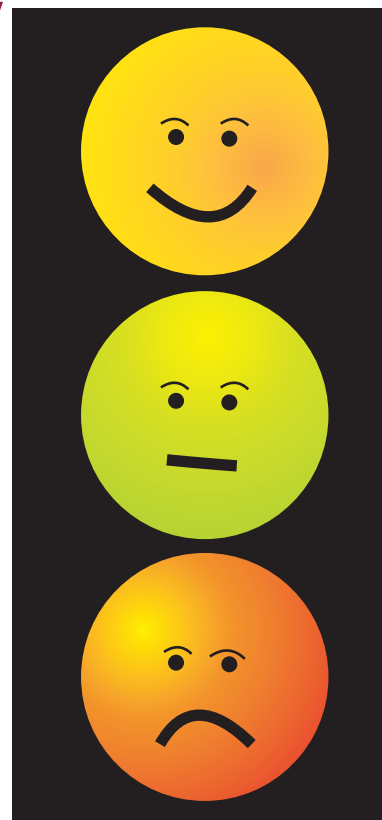
The picture for the self-employed was even more positive. Half saw profits rise compared to just over a quarter in 2013. This surge in profitability is by far the highest recorded since the survey began in 2010. Just 7% reported profits were down in 2014 compared to a worrying 30% with lower profits in 2013. These results surely indicate that the worst of the recession is now over, in the private sector at least.

It is also interesting to note, that there were fewer start-up self-employed businesses in 2014 with those trading less than 12 months

making up just 5%, compared to 12% in 2014 and 9% in the previous two years.

But what of local authorities? With no profitability measure available, it is harder to assess their position. We know that some local authorities have sub-contracted pest control to the private sector, others have chosen to opt out of pest control altogether, referring local residents with a pest problem to members of a trade association, or simply to Yellow Pages.

The 100 individuals in local authorities who took part in the survey are clearly from those authorities which continue to take an active interest in pest control. Asked about immediate prospects last time, 40% predicted they were 'good' or 'very good' and just 12% that prospects were 'poor'. In this year's survey, 59% see prospects as 'good' or 'very good'; that's the highest percentage increase recorded since the survey began. Only 9% expect things to get worse – the lowest figure recorded so far.



2015 Survey

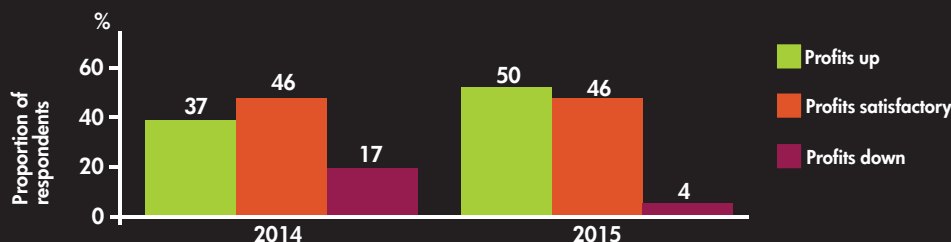
The National UK Pest Management Survey was jointly organised by BASF and **Pest** magazine. Only those at the sharp-end of pest control are invited to take part. 2015 was the fifth year that the survey had been conducted, allowing a number of useful trends to be identified and comparisons made.

Online questionnaires were circulated to qualifying **Pest** readers by email at the end of February. The number of responses has remained high throughout the five years of the survey, with 344 taking part this time.

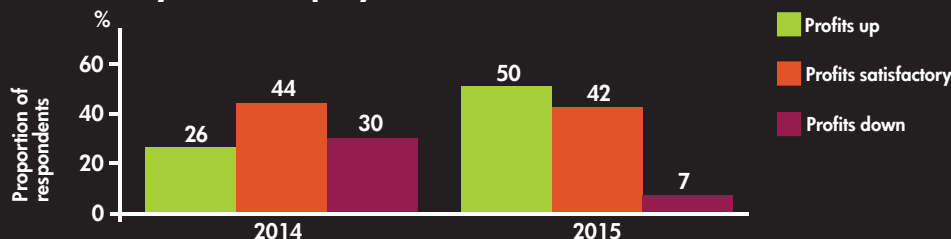
It continues to be representative in terms of the split between the three groups – self-employed pest controllers (33%), private sector pest management companies (38%) and local authority pest control units (29%).

We would like to thank them all for taking the time to take part.

Profitability - private companies



Profitability - self-employed



Industry mood



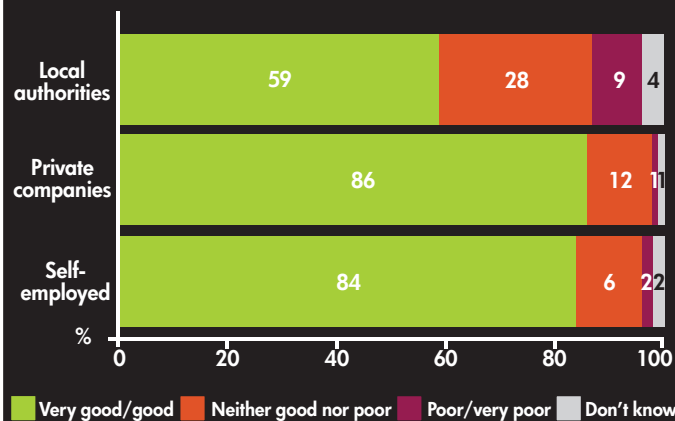
Each year the survey asks about prospects for the coming year and those for the next five years. This provides a useful measure of the mood of the industry.

As reported on page 19, the mood of local authority personnel over the short-term is at its most optimistic since the survey began with 59% seeing the next 12 months as 'good' or 'very good' and just 9% viewing prospects as poor.

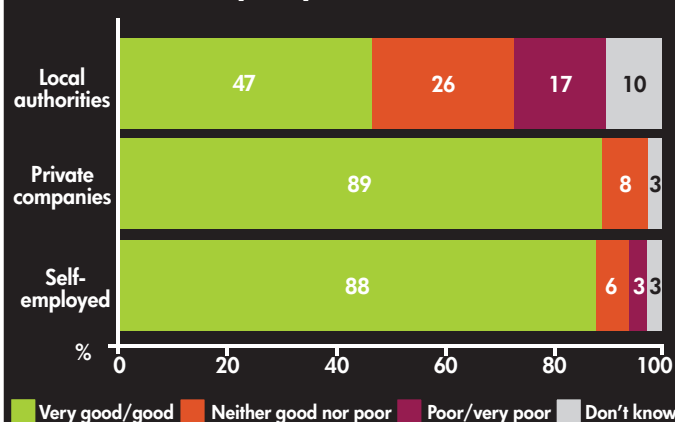
Pest control companies have always been very bullish about their prospects, seeing opportunities for new business around every corner. This mood continued in the 2015 survey with 86% seeing prospects as 'good' or 'very good' and just 1% predicting trouble ahead. Traditionally the self-employed have fallen somewhere between the companies and the local authorities but in 2015 their optimism is on a par with the companies – 84% in the good to very good camp and just 2% expecting things to get worse.

Over the medium-term the private sector is extremely optimistic with 89% of company staff and 88% of the self-employed expecting business to improve. For the first time, there was absolutely no-one in a pest control company who saw prospects as 'poor' or 'very

Immediate prospects 2015



Medium term prospects 2015



Location doesn't change much

In round terms, pest control work is split 50:50 between domestic and commercial locations, with around 10% of work being on commercial farms. But there are some big differences between the sectors:

- Companies are much more into commercial business (75%) 9% of this is on farm. Two-thirds of this work is 'on contract'.
- Self-employed pest controllers saw their commercial work increase from 43% to 54% in the 2015 survey – 17% being on farms. 50% of commercial work is 'on contract'.
- Local authorities continue to focus on domestic dwellings, spending over three-quarters of their time in this sector.

Changes expected in future pest control activities

In all previous surveys bed bugs have been identified as the main area of change for pest professionals. In the 2015 survey this was no longer the case.

Overall, rats and mice were predicted to be the top two pests that will increase in importance. Once again there were

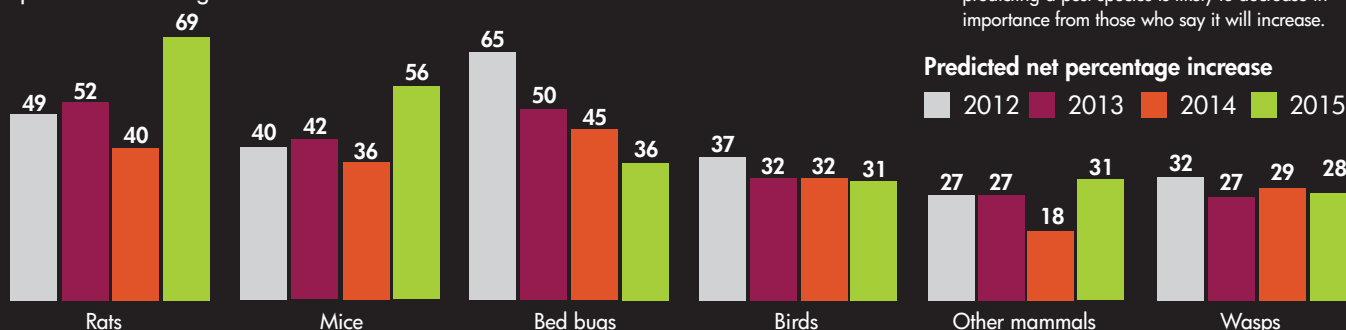
differences between the groups. Local authorities ranked bed bugs the second most likely pest to increase after rats and well ahead of mice. Companies expect bed bugs to increase but put them in fourth place behind rats, mice and bird management. Self-employed pest

controllers see rats, mice and other mammals as the top three, with bed bugs ranked way down their list in seventh place.

Note:
The figures below are the net percentage increases predicted. This is calculated by subtracting the number predicting a pest species is likely to decrease in importance from those who say it will increase.

Predicted net percentage increase

2012 2013 2014 2015



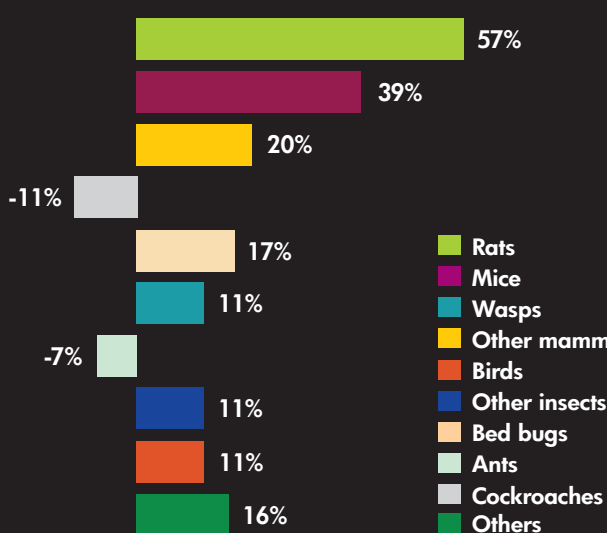
Rats, mice & mammals increasing

In the early years of the survey we asked how pest control work is split by pest type. In subsequent years the survey concentrated on which pests were up and which were down. In 2015 we decided it was time to ask again about the total workload. The results are shown in the pie charts. Comparing these to the 2012 figures the picture has remained pretty constant. The only discernible changes are that all three groups have seen a decline in wasp work – no doubt a reflection of the recent poor wasp years and that the self-employed now spend almost as much time (16%) dealing with other mammals – rabbits foxes, moles etc – as they do in tackling wasps (17%).

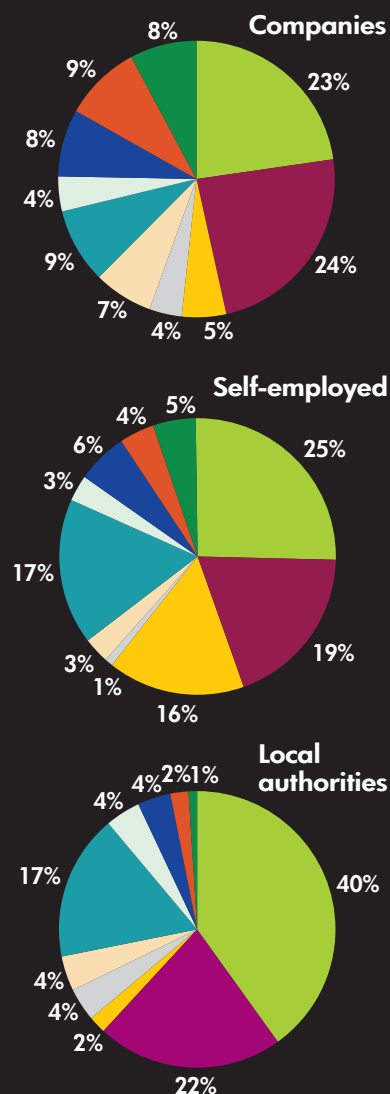
When asked which activities had increased, which had remained the same and which had decreased, a different picture emerges. Subtracting the number who said a pest activity had decreased from those who said it had increased, produces a net increase figure. In previous years it has always been bed bugs that topped this chart but, this time, rats and mice showed the biggest net increases. These were followed by other mammals and bed bugs. There were some big differences between the groups. The self-employed saw the biggest upswing in rat work (71%), whilst local authorities recorded a net increase of just 37%. The positions were reversed for bed bugs with the self-employed recording no increase, whilst local authorities had a net increase of 37%. Companies recorded a net increase in bed bug work of 16%. The self-employed also reported a large net increase in other mammal work of 37%.

It is interesting to note that only two thirds of self-employed businesses undertake bed bug work. This rises to 81% among the private companies and reaches a massive 94% of local authority staff.

Net % changes in pest control activities (2013 to 2014)



Pest control activities



Barriers to pest control

The same three barriers to rodent control identified in the 2014 survey were ranked of most importance in 2015. They are:

- Financial pressures on customers;
- DIY pest control;
- Increasing product use restrictions.

Closer examination of the responses, however, shows that it is self-employed pest controllers who are most concerned about DIY pest control, although they are closely followed by local authorities.

Among private companies, product use restrictions are seen as by far the biggest threat to rodent control.

In local authorities, all three are ranked of equal importance but, not surprisingly, for

this group, local authority cutbacks are felt to be the number one threat.

An increasing number of the self-employed and pest control companies are identifying rodenticide resistance as a barrier with behavioural resistance also creeping up the list for pest control companies.

When it comes to insect control, the top three threats were the same three identified in 2014:

- Financial pressures on customers;
- DIY pest control;
- Poor professional pest control practitioners.

Pest control companies ranked poor professional pest control practitioners as



the number one barrier and also highlighted increasing restrictions on how products can be used as a rising problem.

Local authorities put financial pressures on customers at the top of their list, just ahead of local authority cut-backs, followed by DIY pest control. Poor professional pest control practitioners' practice was seen as much less of a barrier.



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Dr John Simmons

Talking shop or step forward?

The European (CEPA) and American (NPMA) pest control associations came together to hold their first joint global summit addressing the issue of pest management services for public health and food safety on 3-5 June 2015 at the Juan-les-Pins Conference Centre on the French Riviera. **Pest** technical advisory board member and managing director of Acheta Consulting, Dr John Simmons, attended and filed this thought-provoking report.

If, like me, you are over 50 then you will probably know of Juan-les-Pins primarily through its mention in one-hit wonder Peter Sarstedt's 1969 hit *Where Do You Go To My Lovely*. I can now tick it off the list of places to go as this Cote d'Azur resort, squeezed between Cannes and Antibes, provided the backdrop for the inaugural Global Summit of Pest Management and Food Safety.

One big happy family?

Organised jointly by the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) from the USA and Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA), this event was something of a watershed for both associations.

It was acknowledged in the opening introduction, delivered by Bob Rosenberg, NPMA's chief executive officer and Roland Higgins, director general of CEPA, that relations between the two associations have sometimes been distinctly frosty; each viewing the other with some suspicion.

However, they both recognised that globalisation of the food industry necessitates a global approach to pest management in servicing a sector that is economically crucial to pest managers. This conference was the result and marks the first formal collaborative event organised jointly

by these two associations in their 40 years of joint existence.

The degree of globalisation was perhaps most forcefully bought home by Donald Prater, European director of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) who pointed out that there are 115,000 food facilities outside of the USA that are registered by FDA to export foods into that country, with the US importing 15% of its total food requirements.

Delegates from around the world

Globalisation was certainly reflected in the conference attendance, with more than 200 delegates, from 35 countries. Regrettably, the UK pest control servicing sector was conspicuous by its virtual absence. Delegate seniority was high and speakers' affiliations diverse, with delegates representing pest management companies, clients, auditors, regulators and pesticide manufacturers.



NPMA's Bob Rosenberg gave the opening address

Recurring themes were a recurring theme!

- Some 70-80 different food safety related standards impact on the pest management industry. Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) standards such as the International Food Standard (IFS), Safe Quality Food (SQF) and our own British Retail Consortium (BRC), very much adopt a risk-based approach. (See pages 26 to 28 of this issue.) This contrasts with more compliance-based standards such as those of AIB International and Yum! Brands, the parent company for KFC and Pizza Hut, and also some individual client requirements, which remain much more prescriptive in their pest management specifications and service requirements. You won't, for example, see mention of a daily follow-up inspection requirement in any of the GFSI standards;
- Successful pest management is largely reliant on a partnership between client and contractor. Success only comes when a proactive approach is adopted; ▶▶▶



From left: Bob Strong (SAI Global), Bertrand Montmoreau, (CEPA), Steve Rogers (United Biscuits) and Ferenc Varga (Nestle)



GLOBAL SUMMIT of PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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- Education, education and education, of pest controllers, regulators and clients, has always been, and remains, critical;
- Tolerance of pests by those responsible for the enforcement of food safety legislation in food plants is, today, effectively zero. Tolerance to pesticides is not much higher. In the US at least, the consequences of knowingly introducing contaminated foods into the food-chain are more severe than they have ever been;
- The new US Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is built around HARPC (Hazard Analysis and Risk-based Preventive Controls (no I hadn't heard of it either). HACCP appears to be on its way out, at least in the USA. A somewhat shocking statistic revealed by Dr Bob Strong, senior food safety consultant for SAI Global, USA, that, every year, one in seven people in the US falls sick due to a food safety related issue, lies behind the new US approach to food safety enforcement;
- The CEPA certified standard offers European pest control contractors an accredited means of demonstrating their professionalism. Ferenc Varga, of Nestle Quality Assurance, UK, highlighted the value of this, as Nestle plans to give preference to contractors who possess, or are actively seeking, certification to European Standard EN16636. Bertrand Montmoreau, chairman of CEPA, understandably made many references to CEPA certified during the event (see **Pest** issue 38: April & May 2015) and highlighted that a German pest control company is the first to have achieved accreditation;
- The threat to anticoagulants in Europe is far from over. Philippe Berny of VetAgroSup Veterinary Campus of Lyon, France has prepared the report submitted to the EU concerning the risk mitigation measures relating to anticoagulant rodenticides. He highlighted that the threat to this group of products remains very real. Separate to the well recognised potential impacts they have through secondary poisoning, is the question of whether they should be regarded as toxic to reproduction. This is still to be determined and would actually be very difficult to determine in a product that is designed to kill. If it is ultimately decided that they are reprotoxic then they may be lost to us. Even if they survive then, with such a classification, who would want to handle them, or allow them to be used in their premises? (See page 9 of this issue.) Interestingly, this is very much a

European discussion – globalisation doesn't appear to be operating in this instance;

- On a more practical and service related level, the importance of trending and analysing pest monitoring data was highlighted by several speakers, including clients, contractors and regulators. Interpretation of those brightly coloured graphs is obviously paramount to the success of an IPM programme;
- Similarly, documentation (in whatever form) provided by the contractor is of vital importance to both that contractor and the client. When making recommendations for action then, to protect themselves and their company, the pest controller must continue to reiterate the need for action, until that action has been taken. Only then should it disappear from the report, or be signed-off;

Had they attended, UK professional pest controllers would have pricked-up their ears during the presentation by Pierre Choraine, from DG Environment, Brussels. Working for the EU Commission, he outlined how it is probable that anticoagulants with an active ingredient concentration exceeding 0.003% will almost certainly be withdrawn for amateur use in the foreseeable future. This will see off a big proportion of them in the amateur sector, including all those containing first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs). (As detailed by Dr Alan Buckle – see page 9 of this issue).

What's not wanted

Professional pest controllers generally should also have pricked-up their ears during the presentation by Steve Rogers of international



Donald Prater, left, from the US Food and Drug Administration with Pierre Choraine from the EU Commission

biscuit manufacturer, United Biscuits. Outlining what he is NOT looking for when appointing a pest management contractor he included: blind compliance with retailer requirements – potentially to the detriment of service quality; criticism of competitors; inappropriate trending techniques dictated by the contractor; inflexible web-based reporting systems and attempts to introduce novel techniques which aren't appropriate for the site or situation concerned. These rang very true with me.

The three principal sponsors of the conference; Lodi, Syngenta and Bayer, were given the opportunity to outline the technology and tools for the future of pest management in food facilities.

Probably unsurprising, though not unreasonable given the financial investment they had made in the event, there was a degree of commercial promotion in some of these sessions.

It can't be denied though, that there is some irony in having pesticide manufacturers as principal sponsors of a pest management event highlighting that a major trend is pesticide minimisation!

Elastic time keeping

Time keeping for the two days can perhaps best be described as elastic, with a 19.00 finish on the first day being an hour beyond the scheduled finish time and so making for a very long day.

Of more concern, it only left me half an hour to get my glad-rags on for the beachfront conference dinner. Highlight of the evening was my sitting next to Cecily Adams, wife of John, the owner of Australia's largest independent pest control company (Adams Pest Control). The fact they live in Melbourne, where I plan a holiday next year, was very useful, but she is also a former dance partner of *Strictly Come Dancing's* Craig Revel Horwood; seriously impressed!

So what of the future?

The plan is that this will be a biannual event, alternating between the USA and Europe. It will be interesting to see if this was simply a talking shop, or whether the ultimate result is a more globalised approach to pest management in food plants.

It is always difficult when reviewing an event to see what opportunities have been missed. We know that there are very real differences between Europe and the USA in terms of how pest management is actually done, but these were, disappointingly, conspicuous by their absence. The opportunity was there,



The speakers from the pest control businesses. From left: Chris Gorecki (Rollins, USA), Mirko Baraga (Cleaning control de Plagas, Argentina), Richard Ennis (Steritech Group, USA) and Olof Sand (Anticimex, Sweden)

within the session investigating business models for food related pest management.

More practicality needed

This could (and in my view should) have been more practically oriented. Instead, it rather turned into an opportunity for the four speakers, senior executives from two US-based, one Argentinian and one North European-based pest control contractors to self-promote their companies, imparting little useful information in the process.

Where was the discussion concerning the constraints that European humaneness legislation imposes on pest managers when controlling rodents, for example? This is a key difference from the conventional US model and, in my experience, has a huge impact on how rodent control is carried out on this side of the pond.

Similarly, what about the influence that changing pest biology or behaviour might have? We know that we have major problems in controlling rodents in some sites

and that putting down a bait or trap is no guarantee that you have placed an effective monitor, yet much of the innovation we see is simply a variation on a theme of what we have already.

All in all, we are some way from any form of global approach to pest management and, with the widely different regulatory and social environment on the two sides of the pond, I suspect that we will probably never get there.

Furthermore, the globe consists of more than the US and Europe so can it be assumed that any move to harmonise practices would be adopted globally? I think not.

Learning from each other

This probably isn't necessary anyway, but we can certainly all learn from each other. In that sense this was an extremely useful event for explaining where we are now and, having opened with one 1960's song, I'll finish with another, this time from Bob Dylan, what's *Blowin' in the wind*.



Gold sponsors: Left to right: Marie-Laure Biannic from Lodi, Hélène Brun from Bayer and Robert Vink from Syngenta

On spec!

Navigating the maze of food manufacturing standards

Working in the food manufacturing sector can be one of the most demanding areas in which to provide successful pest control. Not only are pest controllers faced with challenges from their client's operation and its associated pests, but there's also the need to comply with the requirements set-out by third party audit bodies. Paul Westgate from Sussex-based Westgate Pest Control looks at some of the recent changes to third-party specifications and their possible implications for pest controllers.

There are numerous third-party specifications and, whilst it would, of course, be preferable to pest controllers (and to most manufacturers) if one universal specification was in place, it is unlikely that this will ever come to fruition. (See the report from the Global Summit page 23 to 25 in this issue.) Food manufacturing remains a competitive marketplace with companies striving to provide better and safer products to their customers and all looking for extra

competitive advantage.

The first half of 2015 has seen a flux of new specifications. In the first quarter amended specifications have come from BRC, Marks & Spencer (M&S), Tesco and Waitrose. One of the first challenges to the pest controller on the ground is to obtain notification of these new changes. Ensuring key communications are established with food manufacturing clients is often the best way to unearth a 'newly modified' standard.



Paul Westgate

Summarised below are the major changes to these specifications and key points for pest professionals to consider to ensure they, and their clients remain compliant.

BRC version 7

The BRC standard is generally not as prescriptive as some of the multiple retailers' standards. It relies on a tailored, risk assessed system for the delivery of pest control. Version 6 sections (4.13) will be replaced with Version 7 sections (4.14) from 1 July 2015.

So, what's changed?

- A specification overview statement has been added (4.14.1). This sets out the need to protect products, raw materials and packaging along with the need for a robust, well documented pest control process;
- If in-house pest control is conducted under (4.14.3) a requirement is now prescribed for site staff to demonstrate they 'meet any legal requirements for training or registration';
- An amendment in (4.14.5) removes the wording 'secured in place' and including 'all rodent monitoring devices'. The main objective of this

Specifications galore!

- Organic certification bodies such as the Soil Association and Organic Farmers and Growers place emphasis on the reduction and restriction of pesticide use and, in some cases, restrictions on use of glue boards.
- Independent audit bodies such as the British Retail Consortium (BRC), SALSA, AIB International have their own detailed standards.
- Many supermarket chains have, in some cases even more detailed specifications, Waitrose, M&S and Tesco all have extensive manufacturing standards that any company manufacturing these branded products must adhere to.
- Other supermarket chains such as Co-op, ASDA and Morrison's have their own manufacturing standards, although these are more in line with the BRC.
- Specifications also exist for other large companies looking to protect their supply chain.

clause, to prevent contamination from pest control hardware, however remains. To continue to reduce risk, the securing of baits should remain best practice;

- Additional detail in (4.14.7) relates to the course of action to take in the event of a pest problem. Call-out times should be established and the provision for the site to have a 'pest aware' person to inform the pest contractor directly is detailed;
- Clause (4.14.9) changes the typically 'quarterly' need for an in-depth survey (field biologist inspection) to 'as a minimum annually'. The clause is still to be based upon risk and it is anticipated that for the majority of food manufacturers a quarterly frequency would be necessary. There are also new details on the scope of the survey. Having only one field biologist inspection will not provide an overview of the site over the seasons and may mean issues are missed;
- A new clause (4.14.11) outlines the need for site employees to understand and be aware of pest activity and of the need to report pest activity.

Whilst there are no radical changes to this specification it continues to be based on risk assessments which should evolve and be well documented. An increased focus on training and pest awareness for on-site staff should be an addition welcomed by pest controllers.

Support from on-site staff is a critical component to ensure the pest free status of facilities. Having some audit pressure from this standard should help to drive home this message. Opportunities to provide pest awareness sessions may be increased. These are useful tools to cement relationships and ultimately improve service delivery.

Tesco

V6 was bought into effect from 3 March 2015. It replaces V5, which had been in place since 2012. The standard has been condensed and presented in a more manageable structure. Pest control is detailed in Section 24.

The standard remains one of the most demanding specifications in place and aims to 'minimise the risk of infestation to the site and contamination of the product, protecting the business and the brand'.

The standard contains differing levels of clauses, some elements are required, others are an aspiration, or an example of 'what

good looks like'. The latter two are not requirements but best practice and items that may be looked upon favourably by auditors.

So what's changed?

- Ideally the site now should undertake six monthly review meetings and, if a major incident occurs, a review by someone 'independent' of the site should be considered (24.1);
- The follow-up process has changed from the previously heavily prescribed format, which stated 'follow-ups every other day for three clear visits for internal rodent activity'. The new requirement sees follow-up visits based upon risk, ensuring it is 'appropriate for the infestation, but as a minimum should be for two consecutive clear visits' (24.2). The decision about the frequency of these follow-ups should be based on risk, documented and agreed between the parties;
- Additional documentation is detailed in (24.4), with the need to repeat any outstanding recommendations from previous reports being prescribed;
- Section (24.8) details an aspiration that the site will use sticky board EFK units, along with some basic advice on reducing risk during insecticidal treatments;
- Inclusion in section (24.9) that windows leading into areas 'directly connected' to production areas to be proofed. Another opportunity for pest controllers?

Gone is the need to be shadowed by the site contact during the visits/treatments although the need to effectively communicate findings is still vital to providing success.

The key elements of the specification remain in place since the last revision, including controls based upon risk, comprehensive provision of supporting documentation and the placement of EFK's and pheromones so as not to present risk to product.

The major amendment to the follow-up process should be greatly beneficial to pest control providers who can now devise their own structured follow-up for sites and pest species without being restricted by set dates which, in many cases, were never 'fit for purpose' to achieve control.

M&S (2015)

New guidelines issued in January 2015 saw very little change to an already comprehensive specification which has been in place since September 2012.

The only amendment has been the inclusion

of an essential requirement for all M&S suppliers stipulating that: 'pest free status must be the objective through prompt and effective action using the minimum amount of pesticide'.

The follow-up process of three consecutive clear inspections, every other day, followed by a further inspection one week (seven days later), the need for six monthly review meetings and specific paperwork, such as recording of baits checked during biologists' inspections along with many other specific criteria remain in place from the 2012 version.

Waitrose (V3)

Waitrose's food manufacturing standard is still relatively new, having been initially launched in December 2013. V1 was quickly superseded in February 2014 and in January 2015 the current V3 came into force.

What's changed?

- The scope (2.0) of the policy has been extended to include satellite warehouses and third-party warehousing of finished product;
- A documented copy of the site management's and contractor's responsibilities should now be produced (4.2.1). This must detail the responsibility for removal of old pest evidence (droppings etc.) as in (4.3.9);
- Specific reference to rework material, its storage and handling and the need to remove standing water has been added (4.2.6 - 7);
- A requirement for documented records of the 'pest free status' of any re-commissioned/secondhand equipment being bought into the factory has also been added (4.2.12);
- The recommended annual frequency of visits remains at eight routine and four field biologist inspections. Where risk assessment identifies a higher need, the number of visits should be increased (4.3.1);
- The standard now specifies that service providers shall be part of a national trade association as laid out in (4.3.4). In V2 the membership of NPTA was acceptable but this has now been removed and reference to CEPA, presumably the new CEPA certified standard, included;
- A welcome change is the removal of the somewhat confusing schematic for rodent escalation protocol in

appendix 1. A standard follow-up process for internal rodent activity of alternate day inspections, until three clear inspections have occurred, with a further visit a week later, is now in place;

- The provision relating to night routine has been amended to include the phrase 'where the site is subject to ongoing pest activity' as opposed to the previous requirement to have two of the eight routine visits conducted at night (4.4.4);
- Paperwork system requirements have been increased in (4.7.1) to include a summary of all visits, annual site risk assessments for frequency of visit, temporary monitoring plans and product labels;
- The surviving appendix sections remain largely as per V2 with minor word changes for the rodent section. There is some additional guidance for EFK placement and the timings of tube changes within the control of flying insects section;
- Further guidance for the control of stored product insects is provided with a steer towards seldom used equipment

and older stock holdings. A new section on insects in general is also included which focuses on raw material and sample storage areas;

- Bird scaring devices are also added for consideration to the control of bird's appendix.

The major change, which will be of significant benefit to pest controllers, is the removal of the complex follow-up and escalation protocol. The simplified follow-up process, in line with M&S although strenuous, is certainly more achievable.

The change in wording for the provision of night routines will also offer a welcome relief for both factory managers and pest controllers, although the benefit of such inspections should not be underestimated.

With these revisions, the specification remains stringent but much more workable.

Conclusion

As with all elements of successful pest control, the formation and maintenance of strong relationships between pest professionals and on-site personnel is the key component in ensuring successful pest control provision and compliance.

Understanding the audit process, the challenges it brings and a sound knowledge of the various specifications will help to develop these relations further. The difficulties of working to spec are numerous and at times can be frustrating, in particular where a site works to multiple standards.

The specifications are detailed and hard work to deliver successfully, they require time and resource to achieve compliance, but they can also provide on-going business opportunities for pest controllers whether that be for training client staff or from extra pest management work.



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Game or rodent feeders?

A new study, from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, has proven what rural pest controllers may have suspected for many years. More than 67% of the food provided over-winter for gamebirds was consumed by pest species, particularly rats, pigeons and corvids.

The two-year study, the first of its kind, was carried out by Dr Carlos Sanchez-Garcia, supervised by Dr Francis Buner from the GWCT. It involved putting camera traps on nearly 260 game feeders containing wheat grain on three lowland farms in Southern England during the winters of 2012 and 2013. Over this period more than 160,000 photographs showing the various visitors to the feeders were taken and analysed. One estate provided more than 26 tonnes of wheat for their birds through 215 feeders from September through to the end of spring (May) the following year. Without rat control this estate could have lost many thousands of pounds worth of grain to unwanted pests.

Carlos Sanchez-Garcia says: "As this study identifies, over-winter feeding can be a costly and time-consuming exercise when pest control is not carried out at the feeders. This large-scale study identifies that current feeding practices need to be revised to ensure that mainly target species and not pests are the beneficiaries of this important food source. Our previous studies stress the need to continue feeding in late winter and we would recommend that feeders are placed along hedgerows when efficient control of rats is maintained. When no efficient rat control is carried out the feeders should be placed in open fields. A regular change of the feeder location (every 7-10 days) is also recommended to reduce the impact of rodents and other unwelcome visitors."



Unwelcome guests help themselves to gamebird feed at night

All you need to know about rodents

A simple title – *Rodent Pests and their Control* – tells you exactly what to expect within the 432-pages of this reference book. The book not only updates the reader from what was covered in the first edition, published in 1994, but it also aims to substantially modify other topics, as well as including several new chapters covering subjects which have come to greater prominence.



In the preface, the two authors – Dr Alan Buckle of Reading University and emeritus Prof Robert Smith from Huddersfield University – admit that this is not a fast-moving branch of science, but enough has changed and sufficient new information accumulated, to warrant a new edition.

These new additions include the humaneness of vertebrate pest control, the important issue of the presence of residues of anticoagulant rodenticides in wildlife, plus the use of rodenticides for the removal of invasive rodent invaders in island ecosystems.

As might be expected the balance of the book covers, in considerable detail, subjects such as: the natural history of rodents; rodents as carriers of disease; control methods; laboratory and field evaluation techniques; resistance; damage assessment; rodent control in practice; environmental and wildlife impacts. The majority of these chapters are written by individual authors who are recognised as international experts on these topics. Some are very well-known names in the UK – namely Stephen Battersby, Adrian Meyer, Colin Prescott, Dave Cowan and Robert Shore.

Certainly not light bed-time reading, everyone professionally involved with rodents and rodenticides should have a copy.

Copies cost £95 or £85.50 if bought online from the publisher, CABI at www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781845938178

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Contact solution to tricky mouse problem



A case study of mouse control in a London College

When students at a London college settled into their accommodation in the autumn of 2014 they found they had some rather unexpected and uninvited guests – an infestation of mice.

A typical student accommodation building in London was recently expanded, with another floor being added and re-developed to provide single-room accommodation for some 280 students.

During the construction work, gaps were opened up to allow services: electricity, water and drainage, to be connected up. In the process of doing this, mice were able to gain access from both ground level and from adjoining floors.

Mark Wiseman, business and technical manager of London-based Albany Environmental Services, explains: "The site had previously been regularly serviced by us, but the servicing had lapsed during the development phase.

"What had once been a controlled site was now showing signs of increased rodent activity as the development progressed. We therefore put a standard baiting programme in place with all the basement areas and riser cupboards baited with difenacoum paste.

Signs of increasing activity

"However, by late December 2014, the frequency of call-outs to mice sightings, in both students' rooms and corridors, were on the increase. It was clear that the control programme was not working and there was concern over the low level of 'bait take' from the bait stations," he explained.

The housekeeping in the student accommodation was of a good standard

with relatively low levels of food debris found in the rooms. The accommodation block was attached to a public house that was not monitored or controlled by Albany. Was that the cause of the infestation?

Albany needed to ensure its client was happy and that a suitable solution to the spread of the mouse infestation was found, but the pattern of the infestation was puzzling.

No clear pattern emerged

No clear pattern of mouse activity was emerging. Student rooms were very rarely getting multiple call-outs. Adjoining rooms did get call-outs, but never more than two rooms next to each other, at any one time. There was no obvious location floor and no established run was discernible.

All student rooms have 'mechanically driven beds with motors and a powered cable system to raise and lower the beds – this allowed mice clear access into the rooms. Proofing the rooms was therefore a daunting and challenging task as it was important to ensure that cables and wires were not restricted.

On 20 December 2014 a programme of control was started in an environment where there were many access points, many rooms and several floors. Due to the low bait take and the increase in sightings, a different approach was needed.

"We opted for PelGar's brodifacoum bait, Vertox Contact Gel which sticks to the feet



Mark Wiseman from London-based Albany Environmental Services

and fur of mice and is ingested during the grooming process, as standard 'feed' baits had not given any control," said Mark.

"On our first visit, 41 of the rooms that had reported mouse sightings were treated with contact gel placed in tunnels which the mice readily run through.

"The bait we had down was still not being taken, despite the change in formulation, and mice sightings were continuing in rooms and corridors. After ten days we extended the contact gel treatment programme to 32 riser cupboards adjacent to the rooms where mice had been seen. The initial check on the gel tunnels showed activity in only three



Mouse droppings were seen where gaps were opened up to connect services

rooms, though we were still receiving an average of three call-outs a week from different parts of the building. In addition, common areas were now showing signs of activity but there was still no clear pattern in the infestation and mice numbers were increasing."

"Because of this sporadic behaviour we decided that the whole programme needed to be taken-up a notch and in the following days more product was placed in gel tunnels in additional rooms where mouse activity had been reported.

"In addition to this, back of house areas and cable areas were also treated with gel to ensure the best coverage of potential mouse runs. By the end of the first month we had placed gel tunnels in 192 rooms and had used 14 x 300g tubes of Vertox Contact Gel – a significant treatment."

Call-outs begin to fall

The programme was in full swing – there were no dead mice reported but the number of call-outs had dropped from three a week to just one a week between 20 December and 31 January 2015. In February there were no call-outs for the first two weeks. However, the site was visited again and gel replenished in a few areas where heavy smearing was evident. Less than half a tube of the gel was used at this time. The treatment programme continued so that, by the end of February, 248 of the rooms had been treated to eradicate the last of the infestation.

In March there were a couple of sightings in the first week, but since then there has been no mouse activity reported.



Vertox Contact Gel is placed in gel tunnels



Gel tunnels are strategically placed along mice runs

Seeing the results

"During the three months of the treatment programme we focused on the travelling patterns of mice, sightings, droppings and smear marks," explained Mark. "We placed tunnels in areas of activity which exposed the mice to the gel. We applied the gel to the top of the tunnel, rather than the floor, and this resulted in a good uptake of the product via the fur on the back of the mice.

"During the full course of the treatment programme there were ten site visits, 23 tubes of Vertox Contact Gel used and an accumulated 72 man-hours of work undertaken. The result – a significant impact on the mouse infestation, a very satisfied client and students with one less worry in their lives," concluded Mark.

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Label changes

how will they affect you?

There has been a good deal of talk in the industry about keeping a close eye on rodenticide labels for changes about where they can be used, but it's not just rodenticide labels that are changing. Dr Colin Mumford who provides technical support at Bayer, talked to *Pest* editor, Frances McKim, about the upcoming Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) changes and what they will mean for pest professionals.

What are the CLP changes and why are they happening?

Over the next two years pest control and other chemical products will undergo a number of changes to the labels that appear on the product packaging. It follows the United Nation's (UN) Global Harmonisation System (GHS) of the classification and labelling of chemicals.

"GHS introduces revised hazard symbols, signal words, hazard statements and precautionary statements, with the aim of creating a globally recognised system which will be universal across every country worldwide," says Colin.

The CLP legislation incorporates all industrial and household chemicals, including **all** those chemical products used within the pest control sector, not just rodenticides.

Colin advises: "It's important to emphasise the updated labels do not reflect any change to the products themselves. The risk that products pose to pest managers, the consumer, or to the environment has not changed in any way; it is purely the labels themselves that are being updated. However, outside of these CLP changes, it is important to remember that as part of good practice you should always continue to review product labels, in order to keep abreast of any additional changes," he says.

"Users of any chemical product will now see a selection of nine new hazard pictograms, depicted within a red diamond, which replace the original square symbols with the orange background.

"There are new signal words which replace those currently on chemical labels, such as 'Toxic' and 'Harmful'. These two will be replaced with 'Danger' and 'Warning' respectively. A new disposal phrase will also be introduced to the labels."

What are the timescales?

In terms of timescales, all products leaving the manufacturer or marketing companies must be labelled in accordance with the new CLP regulation by 1 June 2015. However, distributors and users have until 1 June 2017 to use-up stock which still uses the old labelling.

Many manufacturers will have been making the changes to their labelling in advance of



Bayer's Dr Colin Mumford

June. "Here at Bayer we have been proactive in updating our labels ahead of the deadline," adds Colin. "Those who use our products will start to see the new symbols on our products towards the end of this year, it is all dependent on what new stock your distributor has available."

Colin explains that it is a huge project for manufacturers to ensure that these changes are made and carried out correctly, and within the deadline.

"It has meant we've had to go back through all of the data on each of our products to ensure they are all correctly classified according to the new legislation and then update the label text with the new symbols and phrases."

How we got to where we are today

- 1960s – The EU passed a Directive which set out a classification system for chemical substances, called the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD);
- In time, the same approach was applied to chemicals made of more than one substance. The law which set out the classification requirements was called the Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD);
- The DSD and DPD are implemented in the UK by a law called the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2009, known as CHIP;
- Many chemical users and consumers will be familiar with the CHIP orange and black hazard symbols which have appeared on chemical products for many years;
- European Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures came into force on 20 January 2009 in all EU Member States, including the UK.



One of the familiar orange background CHIP symbols which is being replaced

How will it affect me?

All products will now need to conform to the new legislation. And whilst they will be implemented at a worldwide level, the physical label changes will take place at slightly different times across the world.

Colin reiterates that the products themselves have not changed: "The usage rate, method of application and level of personal protective equipment remains the same."

And, he urges that it is now more important than ever that pest professionals stay on top of their stock rotation. "Be vigilant, be sure to use the old label items first and take care not to leave older stock at the back of the store," he concludes.

FAQs

What has changed – what will I see?

The changes apply to many chemicals, but in the pest control area managers will now see that all the products they use – liquid, foam or block, hold a selection of nine new hazard pictograms within a red diamond. These replace the current boxed warning symbols with the orange background. New signal words also replace those currently on chemical labels, and a new disposal phrase will be introduced to the labels.

Why have the changes come in?

The Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) label changes are happening following the UN's Global Harmonisation of the classification and labelling of chemicals. The overarching aim of these changes is to create a globally universal system.

What does this mean for me applying my product of choice?

Nothing will change to the product itself; the label rates, application method or the level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you need to use when applying the product will all remain the same. However, it is important to familiarise yourself with the new hazard symbols and warnings.

By what date do I need to make sure I've used up old labelled stock?

All products leaving the manufacturer or marketing companies must be labelled in accordance with the new CLP regulation by the 1 June 2015.

However, distributors and users have until 1 June 2017 to use up stock which still holds the old labelling.

The new pictograms and what they mean

The first six, shown right, are all very similar to the familiar orange CHIP symbols. All that has changed is the design, so they are now displayed in a red diamond on a white background.

They are:

- 1 Explosive;
- 2 Oxidising;
- 3 Highly or extremely flammable;
- 4 Toxic or very toxic;
- 5 Corrosive
- 6 Dangerous for the environment.



The familiar harmful or irritant symbol of a large black X on an orange background (pictured left) has been replaced. The new pictogram for less serious health hazards is an exclamation mark.



There are two completely new pictograms. The one on the left signifies serious longer-term health hazards such as carcinogenicity and respiratory sensitisation.

The pictogram on the right means the product contains gas under pressure.



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Bee alert for stinging insects!

It pays to look around!

With the wasp and hornet season about to be, we hope, in full-swing do take care and have a good look around when clambering up into clients' lofts.

Phil Rider from Countryman Services in Devon got the shock of his life last year after completing a squirrel job in the attic of a rambling 50's style detached house near Exeter airport. Just about to replace the ceiling hatch he turned around and was faced with this whopper of a hornets' nest – some two feet across Phil reckoned. And if you look carefully there's a second nest behind.

Standing at over six feet tall, Phil finds squeezing in and out of lofts a trifle tricky. Fortunately for him though, he didn't spot any activity around the nest, so concluded it was one from a previous year. Jolly good job too! So, Phil's recommendation is: "Have a good look before venturing into an attic. You never know what you might find."



What might this bee?

Jack Platten of Platten Pest Control is used to getting some pretty strange phone calls, but a recent one had him 'foxed'. The somewhat distressed caller said they had 'a large fungi looking thing' hanging down from one of their trees.

Jack, who has worked with his father for the last 18 months in the family pest control business near Norwich, set out to investigate. Arriving at the caller's house, he was ushered into the back garden where there was a small orchard. Hanging from one of the branches was 'the fungi'. In fact it was a large swarm of honey bees that had taken-up residence the evening before.

Luckily for Jack, his next-door neighbour keeps bees, so he quickly phoned him. Once on the scene, the honey bees were safely gathered up and transferred to one of the bee keeper's hives where they are now happily settled in.



Unbelievable!

A plane operated by Flybe made an emergency landing after a bee became stuck in one of its instruments on the outside of the jet. Passengers on the Southampton to Dublin flight were delayed for two hours. Better to be safe than sorry!



Take the Pest Test: 39

BASIS has made two PROMPT CPD points available if you can demonstrate that you have improved your knowledge, understanding and technical know-how by passing the **Pest Test** and answering all our questions correctly. So read through our articles on rodenticide certificate requirements (page 7), understanding resistance (pages 8 & 9), the National UK Pest Management Survey (pages 19 to 21) and label changes (pages 32 & 33) in this issue of **Pest** and answer the questions below. Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the articles.

SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONS to: **Pest** Magazine, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ.

We will mark your **Pest Test** and, if all answers are correct, we will enter the results onto your PROMPT record held by BASIS.

- 1 When is the deadline by which time all professionals buying and/or using SGARs must have a certificate approved by CRRU?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 1 June 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 1 June 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 1 December 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 1 December 2016
- 2 How many different types of resistance does Dr Buckle say have been identified across Europe?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 2	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 4
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 3	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 5
- 3 What is the concentration range of actives in FGARs

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 50 ppm to 150 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 250 ppm to 500 ppm
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 150 ppm to 250 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 500 ppm to 650 ppm
- 4 What % did self-employed pest controllers see their commercial work increase from in the 2015 survey?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 23% to 34%	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 43% to 54%
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 33% to 44%	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 54% to 64%
- 5 What does CLP stand for?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Classified Labels and Products	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Class Limited Products
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Classification, Labelling and Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Certified, Labelling and Packaging
- 6 Under the new CLP regulations, by when must distributors and users have used-up stock which still carries the old labelling?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 1 June 2015	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 1 June 2017
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 1 June 2016	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 1 June 2018

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

PROMPT account number: 200 _____

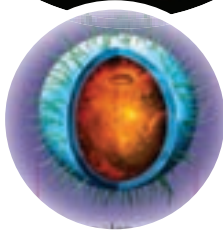
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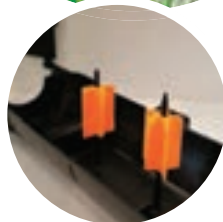
RODENT MONITORING



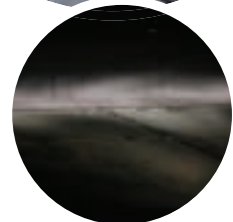
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pigment microcapsule



"Low weight"
& "star shape" blocks



Facilitates identification
of droppings in
dark areas



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For empty silos

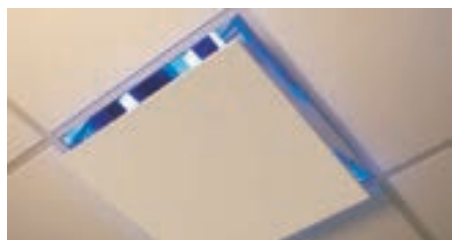
Lodi UK has just launched Phobi Smoke PRO 90 containing pirimiphos-methyl to join its other grain store treatment products. It is an acaricide/insecticide smoke generator designed to treat empty grain stores and silos, pre-harvest. The smoke will control a whole range of grain store pests in cereal grains.



www.lodi-uk.com

More energy efficient

The upgraded On-Top PRO overhead fly trap fits neatly into new or existing ceiling tiles and now benefits from improved energy efficiency. The T5 14-watt UVA tubes contain less toxic mercury than traditional T8/T12 tubes and the electronic ballasts use less energy and are more efficient at powering the tubes claims PestWest. The patented design avoids the possibility of fly fall-out.



www.pestwest.com

PelGar withdrawals

As a result of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), Cimetro, Stingray ME, Nylar 100 and Nylar 4EW are being withdrawn. PelGar is developing replacement products, but there will be an inevitable gap in availability until these come on-stream. Both Nylar products will only be available for sale until 29 July 2015 and have a six-month usage period. Cimetro and Stingray can be bought until 31 August 2015 and must be used-up by 28 February 2016.



www.pelgar.co.uk

Bright and colourful

A vibrant addition to the Insect-O-Cutor range, are the Halo Shades products. These offer a bold and contemporary look to glueboard electronic fly control. From blues to purple, orange, green or red, the 30W range is suitable for either front- or back-of-house applications.



www.insect-o-cutor.co.uk

A new member of the Ratimor family

Joining the same family stable comes Ratimore Brodifacoum. Sold by Killgerm, they explain it is a highly efficient bait with excellent palatability for use in and around buildings.



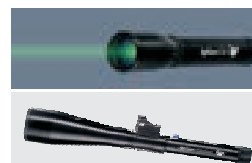
The product comes in three presentations: individual fresh bait sachets, trays and blocks.



www.killgerm.com

Laser beam deters birds

Available from PestFix, the Agrilaser Autonomic, pictured bottom left, keeps birds at bay 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It can protect an area of up to 12 square kilometres from just one position. Birds perceive the laser beam as an approaching physical danger and fly away. Unlike other deterrents, birds will not get used to the laser beam. After consistent use birds will perceive the area as unsafe and will not return. Also available are the Agrilaser Lite (top right) and the Agrilaser Handheld.



www.pestfix.co.uk

View those inaccessible spots



Top: camera & mini torch fitted.
Bottom: with camera



The TC range was developed by Lance Lab but is available from Killgerm. It consists of a telescopic camera and a video lance that enables technicians to see and record activity in areas that have previously been inaccessible.

The TC7 has an adjustable lance extendable from 1.5m to 7m topped-off with a camera and mini-torch for use if dark. Whereas the TC1 is a hand-held 1m flexible-necked lance with camera mounted.

www.killgerm.com





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Black ants



Ghost ants



Pharaoh ants



Argentine ants

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Diary dates

21-25 September

10th European vertebrate Pest Management Conference
Pabellón de Uruguay, Sevilla,
Andalucía, Spain
www.evpmc.org/

15 October

Barrettine MINT day
Britannia Stadium
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 4EG
Email: beh@barrettine.co.uk

20-23 October

PestWorld 2015
Gaylord Opryland Resort &
Convention Center, Nashville,
Tennessee, USA
npmapestworld.org/events/home.cfm

4 November

PestTech 2015
National Motorcycle Museum,
Birmingham
npta.org.uk/pesttech

19 November

SOFHT Annual Lunch & Lecture 2015
The Savoy, London
www.sofht.co.uk/events/sofht-lecture-annual-lunch-awards-2015/

25-26 November

Parasitec 2015
WOW Convention Center,
Istanbul, Turkey
turquie.parasitec.org/index.php/en/

...and finally Your help is needed – pigeon samples required



Are you, or your company, about to undertake a pigeon culling exercise? If so, please read on as you could assist an invaluable piece of scientific work and it won't cost you a penny.

An international research team headed by the Natural History Museum of Denmark and the University of Oxford is undertaking a global study of the genetics of feral pigeons.

The team has two aims:

- Firstly to reconstruct how pigeons spread out of their natural home around the Mediterranean sea;
- Secondly, to reconstruct their relationship with the hundreds of racing and fancy pigeon lineages that enthusiasts breed today.

Although the team has built up a large international collection of material, they lack



Blood and/or liver samples will be taken by one of the research team

one key location – the United Kingdom. So they are seeking collaborators they could work with to obtain additional biological material.

In particular they are keen to sample 10-20 birds from each of several urban locations across the UK.

Given the hi-tech nature of their approach, they need to obtain either fresh blood or liver from birds immediately prior to, or at the time of death. One of their team would be delighted to accompany relevant control actions in order to bring along the sampling equipment and do the actual blood/tissue sampling.

If you would be willing to be part of this study, please contact Professor Tom Gilbert at the Natural History Museum of Denmark on email tgilbert@snm.ku.dk or tel +45 23 71 25 19. Alternatively contact Dr James Haile at the University of Oxford on email: drjameshaile@gmail.com or tel: 01865 275116 or +45 31 22 19 44



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