



Management of Pest Control

Introduction

The company has established, documented and implemented a pest control system for the site as part of the prerequisite programmes in order to meet the requirements of the Food Safety Quality Management System.

Procedure

The company operates a proactive system for the prevention of contamination of products by pests and ensures there are effective controls and processes in place to minimise pest activity. This includes ensuring an integrated pest management system is effectively implemented. This procedure is used in conjunction with written Prerequisites and HACCP plans to ensure adequate pest control. The Hazards Associated with pests are the contamination of food by bacteria from pests and their droppings and also unwanted contamination of food with pests' bodies, eggs, hairs or droppings. At the factory design stage measures are taken to reduce the risk of contamination by aiming to restrict the access of pests on site.

Raw materials, packaging and finished products are stored so as to minimise the risk of infestation. Where stored product pests are considered a risk, appropriate measures are included in the control programme. All incoming goods are inspected for pest infestation. Process equipment handling raw materials vulnerable to infestation is identified and scheduled inspection undertaken.

All buildings are required to be adequately proofed to prevent the access of pests as described in:

- PRP 4.1 Design and Construction of Buildings Prerequisite Programmes
- PRP 4.3 Site Location and Standards Prerequisite Programmes
- PRP 5.1 Layout of Premises and Workspace Prerequisite Programmes
- PRP 5.3 Internal Structure Prerequisite Programmes

Waste is managed as per procedures for Waste Disposal and Waste Management to prevent the accumulation of debris and waste on site to prevent the attraction of pests.

In order to prevent risk of contamination no animals are allowed on site.

The company employs a Pest Control Association registered pest control contractor to implement a pest control programme and maintain the site free from pest contamination.

The contract agreement defines:

- company and contractor key contact personnel
- description of contracted services and how they will be completed
- term of the contract
- equipment and material storage specifications

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Owned by: Technical Manager

Authorised By: General Manager





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Prevention of Pest Harborage

The following standards are applied for the Prevention of Pest Harborage:

- Buildings are proofed to prevent the access of pests.
- Storage facilities and practices are designed to minimise the availability of food and water to pests.
- All raw materials are inspected on delivery for signs of pest activity or contamination
- Any materials found to be infested is immediately quarantined to prevent contamination of other materials, products or the establishment and the Technical Manager informed.
- Grounds are maintained and vegetation tended
- Areas for potential pest harborage are removed including the management and removal of waste
- Any materials that are stored outside are protected from weather, pest contamination and damage

Interior Monitoring

Based on the detailed Field Biologist survey, interior monitoring devices are placed in strategic sensitive areas specific to the rodent species, and other areas of pest activity, including:

- Raw material warehouse
- Maintenance workshop
- Finished product warehouse
- Areas with the potential for rodent access due to traffic
- Overhead areas when roof rat activity is evident
- High traffic areas
- Doors that open to the exterior of the facility

Interior rodent monitoring devices identify and capture rodents that gain access to the facility. Toxic baits are not used for interior monitoring. Bait are not used inside ingredient or food storage areas or processing areas, indicator baits that conform to local regulations are used inside processing areas. Interior monitoring devices are placed along perimeter walls at a distance of 10m and secured in position. Spacing is reduced and the number of traps is increased when there are increased pest activity levels. Interior monitoring devices are inspected at least weekly.

Interior monitoring devices include:

- Mechanical traps
- Glue boards
- Gassing traps

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Pesticide Management

Pesticides are controlled as described in Storage procedures and Chemical Contamination Controls. Pesticides are stored in a locked storage area and are properly ventilated. Pesticide containers and application equipment are labelled and only used for each specific pesticide as per the label. Pesticides are applied and stored according to label directions. Empty pesticide containers are disposed of according to label directions and regulatory requirements, unused obsolete pesticides are secured until collected by the pest control contractor and disposed of as per regulatory requirements.

Pesticides are approved by the Technical Manager before use. Pesticides are only handled and used by authorised personnel as defined in the pest control contract and service agreement.

Pest Control Reporting

Records of all Monitoring devices are maintained, including services performed, to ensure that devices are properly placed and inspected to allow trend analysis of activity.

Pest Control Contractor reports include:

- Signs of pest activity
- Proofing requirements
- Actions required by site
- Type of Pest
- Pesticide or material applied
- Pesticide registration number
- Rate of application or percent of concentration
- Specific location of application
- Method of application
- Amount of pesticide used at the application site
- Next action/follow up date
- Date and time
- Signature of pest controller

Temporary placement of any pest monitoring devices for short-term monitoring is documented in pest control action reports.

The Field Biologist conducts a quarterly assessment of the facility including catch trap analysis. The assessment evaluates all areas inside and outside the facility. Assessment results and recommendations are documented and reviewed with the Technical Manager with a view to improving and updating the pest control procedures. During the assessment, the Field Biologist measures the effectiveness of the program to verify the elimination of applicable pests.

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