

NOVEMBER 2014

# PPC77

## Focus on rodents!

### Non-toxic techniques and monitoring

### Overcoming 'bait-take' challenges with innovative products

**Bioacoustics: starling management**



**Waste: a users' guide**



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Professional Pest Controller  
the journal of the UK pest management industry



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## Networking events

### PestTech 2014

5 November / Solihull, UK  
[www.pesttech.org.uk](http://www.pesttech.org.uk)

### Parasitec 2014

19-21 November / Paris, France  
[www.parasitec.org](http://www.parasitec.org)

### Global Bed Bug Summit 2015

7-9 January / Denver, Colorado, USA  
[npmapestworld.org/events/BedBugSummit.cfm](http://npmapestworld.org/events/BedBugSummit.cfm)



### PestWorld East 2015

19-21 April / Dubai, UAE  
[npmapestworld.org/events/pweast.cfm](http://npmapestworld.org/events/pweast.cfm)

### CEPA/NPMA Global Summit for Pest Management

3-5 June / Nice, France  
[www.cepa-europe.org](http://www.cepa-europe.org)

### BPCA Regional Training Forums

BPCA is running a series of Regional Training Forums around the UK designed to help your business compete, and keep you and your staff up-to-date. Each meeting is worth around four CPD points.

- 20 November 2014 / Maidstone, Kent
  - 4 December 2014 / Newmarket, Suffolk
- See the full list of dates/venues, and book your place at [www.bpca.org.uk/events](http://www.bpca.org.uk/events)

## Online learning

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[www.bpca.org.uk/online](http://www.bpca.org.uk/online)

Online learning	Member cost (exc. VAT)	Non-member (exc. VAT)	
Individual modules	Principles of pest control		
	Birds	£100 per module per year	£100 per module per year
	Insects		
	Mammals		
	Rodents		
All modules	£300 per year	£500 per year	

## Training

BPCA's training courses and examinations are run throughout the year at venues all around the UK. To view BPCA's full training calendar for 2015 visit [www.bpca.org.uk/training](http://www.bpca.org.uk/training)

Examinations	2015 dates	Venue	Member cost (exc. VAT)	Non-member (exc. VAT)
RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award in Pest Management	10 January 12 February 24 February 4 March 20 March 26 March 28 April 15 May 30 May	BPCA offices, Derby South Yorkshire Ireland Warwick London (PestEx) Cardiff Glasgow South	£140	£165
BPCA Accredited Technician in Pest Control	13 January 6 March 5 June	BPCA offices, Derby	£245	£330
BPCA Certificate in Bird Management	16 April 16 November	BPCA offices, Derby	£100	£120
BPCA Fumigation Diploma	22 May	BPCA offices, Derby	£145	£175
BPCA Fumigation Certificate of Proficiency	Register interest		£230	£295
BPCA Certificated Field Biologist	31 March 26 June 5 October 26 November 1 December	BPCA offices, Derby	£305	£415

Courses	PROMPT Register	PROMPT CPD	2015 dates	Venue	Member cost (exc. VAT)	Non-member (exc. VAT)
Modular Pest Control Course		30	14 Jan - 12 Feb 4 June - 3 July 24 Sept - 23 Oct	South BPCA offices, Derby North	£725	£925
General Pest Control (residential) *		24	15-20 March 10-15 May 13-18 September 13-18 December	University of Warwick, Coventry Crowwood Hotel, Glasgow South University of Warwick, Coventry	£920	£1,095
Bed Bug Control		12	2 April 29 September	BPCA offices, Derby	£165	£195
Urban Bird Control and Management		20	29 October	BPCA offices, Derby	£185	£215
So you want to be a Field Biologist?		8	23 February	BPCA offices, Derby	£165	£195
Pest Control Awareness		22	3 March 13 November	BPCA offices, Derby	£165	£195
5 Day Fumigation		8	18-22 May	BPCA offices, Derby	£900	£1,150
Starting Out in Pest Control		10	19 January 2 March 4 September	BPCA offices, Derby BPCA offices, Derby South	£165	£195
How to Sell in the Pest Control Industry		30	9-10 April 13-14 October	BPCA offices, Derby South	£300	£365

Venues details provisional and may change, please check the BPCA website before booking.

\* includes RSPH Level 2 exam fee, British Pest Management Manual and six weeks' access to the BPCA Online Learning programme prior to the course.

Book by calling 01332 225 111 or via [www.bpca.org.uk/training](http://www.bpca.org.uk/training)

BPCA reserves the right to cancel a course if insufficient bookings have been received. Delegates will be offered an alternative date or a full refund of the course fee. BPCA will not be liable for any costs incurred by the delegates.



**BPCA**  
[www.bpca.org.uk](http://www.bpca.org.uk)  
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## CPD for 2014: 2 points

BASIS reference: PC/34602/14/g

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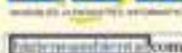
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# Opportunity knocks

simon@bpca.org.uk



**Simon Forrester**  
BPCA chief executive

Like it or lump it, Europe decides the majority of the legislation affecting pest controllers, and the last 40-odd years of EU law has not exactly been kind to us. So it was a pleasant surprise to hear the reshuffle of two major EU departments heralds a shift of priorities from the environment to jobs and growth, and brings chemical regulation under the public health remit.

New Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in his mission statement: "Protecting the environment and maintaining our competitiveness have to go hand-in-hand; both are about a sustainable future" The enlarged DG Environment combines environment with agriculture, thus balancing some highly conflicting interests while reviewing existing and proposed laws in the light of the 'jobs and growth' agenda. This is a clear opportunity for us to influence European law back in the favour of the embattled pest control industry.

On the products side, Biocidal chemical regulation at EU level has been moved from DG Environment to the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (known as DG-SANCO). BPCA, through our membership of CEPA, will continue to lobby at a European level to convince DG-SANCO to ensure EU laws on the safety of food, consumers' rights and the protection of people's health all take into account professional pest control (see Global

Summit news item, page 8).

We have also been active in responding to a French legislative initiative prohibiting the sale of anticoagulants in excess of 30 ppm to non-professionals, because of their alleged toxicity to human reproduction. This may on first viewing seem to be just what we need; a ban on amateur products? Perfect! But the devil is, as always, in the detail. If they restrict to 30ppm for amateurs, it's likely they will do the same for professionals soon after. Also, if we allow the chemicals we use to be classified as reprotoxic, it is likely our industry will face legal challenges from technicians, clients and anyone who ever looked at a bait block, just like the asbestos industry faced years ago.

BPCA is doing its bit to fight this and it will, we hope, go away if all parties pull together, much as have achieved with SGARs (see page 13). On the national level, BPCA has worked with our partners from the NPPTA and Local Authority sectors to show HSE we can be trusted with rodenticides, and this is bearing fruit, just like our work on the pest control waste issue.

Our industry must stand together - or fall apart. Every one of us has a role to play. BPCA is doing its bit - please help by doing yours. Use the free codes of best practice, read and digest the enclosed articles, and keep supporting your trade association.

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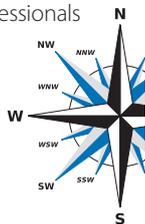


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# KNOW YOUR LICENCE!



BPCA has been contacted by a Wildlife

Investigation Officer from the Surrey Constabulary asking us to remind the industry how

important it is to

ensure that the bird control measures that you are carrying out fall into the terms of a General Licence where required. The officer stated, "It's essential that pest controllers are familiar with the General Licences that are issued in their home country, as the species can vary in the different countries within the UK." He added, "It's also important to remember that licenses can change at any time, not just at the beginning of the year, so a regular check of the General Licences is advisable."

BPCA Technical Manager Richard

Moseley explains, "If you don't want to fall foul of the authorities, not only should you make sure that you operate within the correct license, but you should make sure that your technicians understand the description of their works to ensure they clearly meet the license requirements."

In recent cases, license requirements are being met in practice, but the description of works has led to confusion and further investigation by enforcement agencies. Remember, before using lethal methods, consider non-lethal methods of control, and only discount them if they are ineffective or impractical. You are not required to carry a copy of a General Licence, but it your responsibility to read it before undertaking lethal control methods on a bird species.

Current General Licences can be found at:

- England <http://goo.gl/tZ6lwl>
- Scotland <http://goo.gl/M1EYqf>
- Wales <http://goo.gl/XFG8ZJ>
- Northern Ireland <http://goo.gl/SnsLnU>

## Fendona and Goliath certified for aircraft pest control

Fendona 6 SC and Goliath Gel have been fully approved for pest control in all aircraft, following certification to the required international standard by the world leader in aerospace materials testing this autumn.

To earn their Aerospace Material Specification (AMS) certificates, the insecticides had to undergo comprehensive laboratory analyses to meet rigorous flash point, corrosion and temperature stability standards as well as demonstrating minimal effects on both painted surfaces and transparent plastics.

BASF Pest Control Solutions insect control specialist, James Whittaker, explains, "We submitted Fendona and Goliath for testing to ensure both are made available for all situations, including aircraft treatments."

"Apart from enabling these products to be used in almost any aerospace application worldwide, the fact that they met what are, understandably, the highest material standards in the business with flying colours underlines the particular quality and safety of our formulations in everyday use."

[www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com)

## Cleankill shortlisted in FM Awards



Surrey-based BPCA Member, Cleankill Environmental Services has reached the finals of a prestigious national

competition run by the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM).

It is the first time Cleankill has entered the awards and staff at the company are thrilled to have reached the last stage of the competition. Managing Director Paul Bates said, "We've won several awards in the past but this has to be one of the most prestigious one we've ever been shortlisted for." Paul adds; "what makes it particularly special and important is the fact that most of our customers are facilities managers and getting shortlisted reinforces the excellent work we do within this sector."

The awards, with headline sponsor Macro, recognise excellence and celebrate great facilities management through inspirational projects, teams and individuals. "The BIFM Awards showcase the FM industry at its very best," says BIFM's Chair of Judges, Steve Gladwin. "This year's entries are no exception with strong competition across all categories. There are some truly inspiring projects here with so much to be proud of. Our finalists demonstrate the increasing influence and impact of facilities management to business, the economy and society as a whole."

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## BASF Goliath® Gel competition winners



BPCA

Member

BASF Chemicals

recently ran a Goliath® Gel Competition giving their website users the chance to win one of 10 cartridges of Goliath® Gel and an applicator gun worth over £250 each. The lucky winners of this competition from the UK were Colin Motlieb from Action Pest Control, and Ian Fuller from Vale Pest Control. Congratulations gents!

Keep an eye out on the BASF website for more competitions and updates.

[www.pestcontrol.basf.co.uk](http://www.pestcontrol.basf.co.uk)

## PPC 76 prize winner

In PPC 76 we ran a competition to win an XL8 lance and 12 Ambush bait stations. The lucky competition winner was Mark Zarins from MJ Pest Control in Leicestershire – well done Mark!

## UK PATENT FOR BIOPESTICIDE FORMULATION



Exosect Ltd has received notification that it has been

granted a patent for the control of arthropod infestations in dry stored commodities such as grains, pulses, oilseeds etc. This patent uses electrostatic micro powders as a delivery platform for entomopathogenic (insect-killing) fungi for the effective control of infestations.

This is particularly relevant as the company has submitted an EU Annex 1 application for 'Entostat Bb38' which is based on this technology incorporating *Beauveria bassiana*.

Exosect's Business Development Director, Rob Cannings comments, "We are in the process of seeking partners to commercialise this formulation for use in dry stored commodities in the EU. We look forward to receiving further notifications in key territories in the near future and invite interest for potential partnering in product development."

[www.exosect.com](http://www.exosect.com)

## Natural England Board determines outcome of General Licences Consultation



Over recent months Natural England has held a wide-ranging consultation to seek views on potential adjustments to General Licences for protected species which are periodically reviewed. The consultation evaluated over 2,000 responses, and Natural England's Board has taken forward 25 well-supported proposals in the interests of the effective and safe management of wildlife.

Andrew Sells, Natural England's Chairman, explains: "I welcome the Board's clear decision on which proposals to take forward and which to drop. We have listened to the replies to the consultation and we believe sound judgement and common sense have prevailed." Andrew added, "We can now move ahead with amending the General Licences with confidence that the changes being made will be well supported by licence users and will deliver improvements to the effective and safe management of wildlife within a proportionate regulatory framework."

The proposals Natural England put forward have asked legitimate questions

about what the Licences should cover, which has been vital in helping develop their understanding of how these proposals might work practically. Consulting on the detail of General Licences is an important way of ensuring that protected species legislation works effectively and responds to changing wildlife management requirements.

A summary of the Board's decision in regard to each of the proposals and questions in the consultation can be found at [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)



## CEPA STANDARD TO LAUNCH MARCH '15

The CEN Committee is dotting the Is and crossing the Ts on the hotly anticipated European Standard for the pest management industry (EN 16636) which has been developed in order to professionalise the European pest management sector and to protect clients, public health and the environment.

Compliance with EN 16636 is to be offered through a certification scheme set up by CEPA to enable servicing companies to demonstrate that:

- They have the necessary competence and know-how to deliver pest management services
- They have a management system to ensure a consistent level of quality
- They systematically minimise risks for clients and the public
- They systematically minimise potential negative impacts on the environment and animal welfare.

The standard is to be launched by CEPA at an event on Tuesday 17 March in Brussels,

with industry and client trade press, MEPs, and regulatory bodies from across Europe. This will be supported by a direct marketing campaign to intermediaries and clients. There will also be additional support for CEPA member associations (i.e. BPCA in the UK) including toolbox resources to help you achieve the standard, and significant discounts on certification.

A detailed protocol document (i.e. a guide to how you achieve the standard) will be ready towards the end of this year, so you can start to see whether your company meets the grade (SPOILER ALERT: if you're a BPCA member, you probably will).

[www.cepa-europe.org](http://www.cepa-europe.org)



## HOT LUGGAGE TO COMBAT BEDBUGS



For the paranoid traveller, ThermalStrike has launched the world's only luggage that kills all life stages of bed bugs. By raising the handle and plugging the unit into a traditional wall socket an automatic process treats the traveller's belongings overnight, using infra-red heating, swiftly reaching 60°C (140°F). The heating and safety components are TSA and FAA compliant so bringing the luggage through security is not a problem. No word on what happens when you forget to remove your toiletries or iPad though...

[www.thermalstrike.com](http://www.thermalstrike.com)

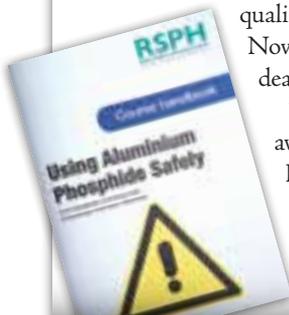
## New aluphos handbook from RSPH

A manual on the safe use of aluminium phosphide products for vertebrate control has been produced by RSPH, to accompany the new Level 2 Award course (now offered through BPCA, see page 3).

The 42-page book runs through the legislative framework under which phosphine-producing products can be used, the products available in the UK; maintaining personal safety (including the correct RPE/PPE); how to use, store and transport the products; waste disposal; target species biology and behaviour; and a list of further reading. This is an excellent guide for those wishing to get qualified before the November 2015 deadline.

The handbook is available from the RSPH website priced £10.

<http://goo.gl/3yjJhi>



## Win a copy of the book

Simply answer the question, "How many pages long is the 'Using Aluminium Phosphide Safely' handbook?"

Visit [www.bpca.org.uk/ppccompetition](http://www.bpca.org.uk/ppccompetition) or email [editor@ppconline.org](mailto:editor@ppconline.org) by the end of November.

## Gamekeeper found guilty of poisoning 10 buzzards and a sparrowhawk

A court rejected Allen Lambert's claim that dead birds of prey were planted on a Norfolk estate by a dog-walker with a grudge against him. The gamekeeper has been found guilty of intentionally killing a protected species in what is England's worst recorded case of poisoning birds of prey.

Lambert will be sentenced next month after being convicted of killing 10 buzzards and a sparrowhawk. Lambert was also found guilty of possessing illegal pesticides and equipment including a syringe for injecting poison into eggs or meat baits, described as a 'classic poisoner's kit'.

When police searched outbuildings around the gamekeeper's cottage, they discovered a sack of pheasant feed on a quad bike filled with nine dead buzzards. A government vet judged they had been killed within the previous fortnight. They also found a banned agricultural pesticide, Mevinphos, in Lambert's Land Rover, and another illegal pesticide, Aldicarb, in a garage. Both substances have been illegally used in other cases of poisoning of birds of

prey across Britain

and post-mortems found traces of Mevinphos in all 11 dead birds.

"There would appear to be a complete lack of control over poisons on the estate," the judge told Lambert. "In many other ways your employers might have been in the dock themselves for some of these offences involving poison on their property."

After the verdict, Bob Elliot, head of investigations at the RSPB, said: "Unfortunately, this is part of a wider national problem. In 2013 we recorded 76 individual birds and other animals illegally poisoned, including 30 buzzards and 20 red kites. We are now calling on the UK government to show its commitment to the protection of birds of prey by introducing stronger legislation, such as increasing controls on people who possess pesticides used to poison wildlife such as Mevinphos and Aldicarb. This could be vital in the fight against illegal persecution."



## US and Europe join forces for global summit

The Confederation of European Pest Management



Associations (CEPA) and National Pest Management Association (NPMA) have joined forces for the first time to offer a global summit for pest management companies and their clients related to public health pest management and food safety issues.

The first Global Summit of Pest Management Services for Public Health and Food Safety will be held from 3-5 June 2015 at the Juan-les-Pins Conference Centre in Antibes on the French Riviera. Designed to be a biannual forum, alternating between Europe and America, the Summit will look at pest management services in terms of the needs of the food, retail, hospitality and other service business sectors.

The trend towards increased globalisation of the pest management industry is most



pronounced in the food and other commercial sectors."

stated NPMA CEO Bob Rosenberg. "We are proud of this historic partnership between the US and European industry associations to provide the leadership to meet these challenges and grow the industry."

"Our goal with this conference is to address issues that are on tomorrow's agenda for the pest management industry and evaluate, together with clients, legislators and other relevant stakeholders which action steps are required to prepare for and respond to our vision of the future" said CEPA Chairman Bertrand Montmoreau.

Speakers at the event are being drawn from DG SANCO (the EU department responsible for public health pest control), CEN, WHO, the hospitality industry, global audit bodies, food clients and retailers.

[www.cepa-europe.org](http://www.cepa-europe.org)

## HIGHEST LEVEL 2 GRADE AWARDED



Simon MacSorley (left) of South West Pest Management Services received the award for the highest mark in RSPH's Level 2 Award in Pest Management, presented in October at RSPH's Annual Conference by principle instructor Oliver Madge (right) of PestTrain.

Speaking after the event, Simon said, "I was thrilled to hear that I had achieved the highest mark in the RSPH examination. Perhaps being new to the industry allowed me to focus on the syllabus, rather than carry any previous training interpretations. I always intended to set up a pest management company that can demonstrate knowledge and professionalism, hopefully this is a leading-by-example start."

Simon continued, "Credit must also go to PestTrain which provided first class training at its centre in Gloucestershire. Oliver and Chris brought life and enjoyment to the course, which really helped with understanding."

Simon was also the first person to achieve the RSPH Aluminium Phosphide Safe Use qualification earlier this year, also achieved through PestTrain, RSPH Exam Centre.

[www.rsph.org.uk](http://www.rsph.org.uk) [www.pesttrain.co.uk](http://www.pesttrain.co.uk)

## Preference for urban areas could explain rapid spread of the tree bumblebee in UK

The strikingly rapid spread of the tree bumblebee in Britain could be occurring because the bees readily live alongside humans in towns and villages – according to research from the University of East Anglia (UEA). A new study shows that tree bumblebees are associated with built-up areas and that these areas form a large part of their habitat use.

These markedly different habitat and foraging preferences set this species apart from other common British bumblebee species, which could explain how tree bumblebees have managed to colonise much of the UK while many other bumblebee species have been declining. The research team at UEA recorded the bumblebee species and the flowering plants visited by the bees at a large number of sites across southern Norfolk, including both urban and rural sites, over a three month period. When combined with landscape mapping data, these observations revealed that the tree bumblebee was much more likely to be found in built-up areas and, to a lesser extent, areas with woodland nearby. In contrast, none of the other five bumblebee species studied shared the combination of favoured landscape features found in the tree bumblebee.

Lead author Liam Crowther, from



UEA's

School of Biological Sciences, said: "This research implies that the tree bumblebee's remarkable success is due, in part, to favouring a suite of resources different to those used by the bumblebee species that are already widespread in the UK." Liam added, "While an association with human habitation has been suspected for some time, this study provides clear evidence of this link and suggests that urban and suburban areas may be facilitating the tree bumblebee's remarkably rapid natural colonisation of the UK."

The Tree Bumblebee was first recorded in the UK in the New Forest in 2001 and has since expanded its range approximately 600km northwards through most of England and Wales and into southern Scotland, a rate of expansion of nearly 50km per year.

<http://goo.gl/ACV0wp>



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# Waste

## A USER'S GUIDE

Following the publication of BPCA's Pesticide Waste Code of Best Practice, BPCA Technical Manager Richard Moseley and NPTA Chairman Iain Turner explain how to minimise the problems and red tape associated with pest control waste.

### What is waste?

If you are going to throw an item away (you no longer have a use for it) then that item has become waste. Because waste can be dangerous or damaging to health and the environment, the law says that there are certain actions to take to keep that waste safe, even after you have passed it on to another company for disposal.

As a business, you must deal with your waste responsibly. For example, you should not be placing it in your domestic rubbish at home. Even if your waste is going to be recycled, it could still be dangerous, and should still be disposed of via a reputable company.

### Pest control waste

It benefits everyone if we minimise the waste that we create. It is better for the environment, can protect the health of staff, and reduces the overall operating costs for a company. Waste also generates red tape, and costs money. To avoid creating waste, pest controllers for example might:

- Use another control measure such as proofing off pest entry points
- Invest in re-training staff to ensure they generate less waste
- Re-use monitoring points from site to site, rather than throw them away at the end of a treatment
- Take spent bait and use it in burrow baiting (thus not creating waste – the bait is being re-used)
- Recycle clean plastic and cardboard packaging, rather than place them in the general waste
- Clean out contaminated packaging, if possible, so that it can be recycled.

However, as pest controllers, it is highly likely that we will need to use toxic products to control the pest species that we deal with. When we use a toxic product it is inevitable that some form of waste will be created, and that waste is likely to be termed as 'hazardous'.

### Hazardous waste

The law says that pesticide waste must be given a code (20-01-19\*) to make sure that is disposed of in a safe manner. When waste is hazardous, certain conditions must be met when we create it and dispose of it. See <http://goo.gl/d70iSI>

When you make the decision to dispose of some bait, the movement of that bait must be tracked until it is finally disposed of. Just as a parcel can be tracked from the seller, through the warehouse, through dispatch and finally to delivery, hazardous waste must be tracked from where it is created, where it is stored and through to where it is disposed of. A document called a Consignment Note is used to chart the movement of your hazardous bait block.

### Consignment notes

Consignment notes are generated when you create pesticide waste on a site. The consignment note records the journey of your waste to your pest control store. At your store all of your small amounts of hazardous waste are grouped into total weights. It can then be sent for disposal with a reputable company,

and one single consignment note is required for your consolidated (grouped) waste. There are several pieces of information that are required on a consignment note (an example simple consignment note is being produced between BPCA and NPTA – see BPCA or NPTA's websites for a copy).

If you are moving your own waste from site to store, you will not be required to leave any copies of the document with the customer as the waste is your property. You only leave copies of consignment notes when you change ownership of the waste, such as when you hand it over to a courier for disposal.

Consignment notes are not required for waste created at domestic customers – you will classify the waste as hazardous from your store onwards, or if you set the contract right, the responsibility may rest with the customer for items you sell to them such as EFK tubes.

### Quarterly returns

If you receive hazardous pesticide waste at your store you must inform the Environment Agency (or equivalent local organisation) about the amounts received on a quarterly basis. The information required is the total weight of pesticide waste stored in the quarter. You will be required to carry out similar returns for fly control unit tubes and aerosols. This information can be recorded on the EA website, and returns must meet the timeframe as illustrated below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			
			Provide totals by 30 April			Provide totals by 31 July			Provide totals by 31 October			Provide totals by 31 January

## FIVE NEXT STEPS

- 1 Register with Environment Agency as a 'Lower Tier Waste Carrier'. It's free, and it's a legal requirement.
- 2 Have a couple of containers in your van, one marked 'hazardous waste' and the other 'spent bait, for re-use'.
- 3 Keep bait down for the shortest time needed to get control, then remove what's left for re-use elsewhere (remember the '35 Day Guidance').  
Don't leaving bait down permanently (see SGARs Update, page 13).
- 4 Securely bag spent grain bait, so that it doesn't get mixed with other baits.
- 5 For a more detailed explanation of the waste requirements for pest controllers please refer to the BPCA Pesticide Waste Code of Best Practice, or seek advice from your trade association.

“

As a business, you **must** deal with your waste responsibly. For example, you **should not be placing it in your domestic rubbish** at home. ”

Registering this information will cost £10 per waste code. If you file returns for fly tubes and aerosols as well, the cost will be £30 per quarter. It is advised that you should send back a return for each category of waste you deal with, even if it is a zero return, once you are in the system.

You may consider obtaining a system to manage this information. There are several out there, such as the new one written specifically for the pest control industry by Mobileworxs.

### Storing hazardous waste

In most cases pest controllers storing hazardous pesticide waste will not require a permit and will not need to register with an authority. However, you will need to ensure that the waste is stored securely and safely, and that it is removed from your store on a quarterly basis. You cannot store more than 50m<sup>3</sup> at any one time. For more details visit <http://goo.gl/Q9GDut>



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# Chemical containers and packaging disposal services

David Brown, general manager of ChemClear Ltd, discusses the necessity for correct hazardous waste disposal...



It's amazing how many people are unaware of the regulations that relate to the storage and disposal of chemical containers and

packaging. Under the 'control of substances hazardous to health' (COSHH) regulations there are thousands of products used daily that are classed as hazardous waste (HW). The law now dictates that all products deemed as such are stored correctly and disposed of in a correct manner. This also applies to the containers and packaging in which these products are bought and kept.

In October 2012, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) launched the 'Fee for

Intervention' scheme. Put simply, this means that if an inspector attends a premises and finds a 'material breach', HSE will write to the organisation and give it 21-30 days for the breach to be corrected. For this HSE invoices the company an average of £372. With all this in mind it is essential that everyone knows what their responsibilities are when handling hazardous materials.

Recent changes have meant that as a rule of thumb all empty containers and packages need to go down the hazardous waste disposal route, and for them not to be considered general waste.

When storing hazardous waste, store in a container that the waste can not get out of, and ensure it is placed somewhere safe and protected from the elements.

It's important to note that certain products will have special storage needs, so ensure you follow the correct instructions on the safety data sheets as and when required.

Disposal of waste products must be done through a licensed waste disposal company

who will provide you with the essential paperwork needed e.g. a transfer or consignment note.

ChemClear is a family-run business that prides itself on giving every customer a 'personal service'. ChemClear has been dealing with waste for over ten years, and now operates across the UK, supporting its customers to ensure their chemicals are stored correctly and hazardous waste disposed of properly. Additionally, ChemClear does all the paperwork leaving its clients to get on with their day-to-day jobs!

To find out how Chemclear could help you with your hazardous waste disposal call David directly on 07436077304, email [info@chemclearltd.co.uk](mailto:info@chemclearltd.co.uk) or visit the website to register.

[www.chemclearltd.co.uk](http://www.chemclearltd.co.uk)



## DON'T GET CAUGHT BREACHING REGS!

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How did you deal with them?

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Last month a 104-page submission went to HSE from the four sectors (Professional/Local Authority, Gamekeeper, Agriculture, Suppliers). This document has been considered and commented on by a range of government agencies. HSE's position is that we will move forward with the Stewardship Regime according to the proposals submitted. Details of implementation will be discussed and agreed later.

What certainly must happen is that HSE will authorise rodenticide baits, including SGARs, for use in the UK market. This is driven by EU regulatory deadlines. The important issue is who will be able to use them and where can they be applied?

From all we have learned so far, it is

### **BCPA Chief Executive Simon Forrester reports on the fight to keep SGARs available to professional users.**

certain that HSE will only permit use where, and in whose hands, they are confident the risks will be properly mitigated. The professional pest control/local authority and gamekeeper sectors have satisfied HSE requirements for training qualification for proof of competence. In our sector, this is the RSPH/BPCA Level 2 in Pest Management plus proof of Continuing Professional Development – which is exactly what every BPCA member technician will have achieved by the end of this year.

The next step is for HSE to put the proposals out for consultation. We will be

telling you how your voice can be heard during the consultation process in the near future.

Alan Buckle, Chairman of CRRU, has co-ordinated the development of stewardship proposals from all user sectors. He said, "a great deal of work by many people and agencies, including BPCA, has gone in to getting us to this point. In Churchill's words, we are very much 'at the end of the beginning'. HSE requires us to implement a range of monitoring processes, including looking for residues in wildlife, to show that stewardship is having the desired effect. If it does not we will soon be back to more regulation and further restrictions."

Watch this space for how you can help fight the good fight to keep SGARs available to professional pest controllers.

# HSE SAYS YES TO STEWARDSHIP



## THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE

**\* Richard Moseley anticipates the likely changes and influences on UK rodent control. \***

The strategy of 'bait first and ask questions afterwards' is no longer acceptable. Those who conduct rodent control must first consider all available measures and only use rodenticides when other less severe methods, such as removal of harbourage and trapping, are unfeasible or impractical.

The use of active baits for external monitoring of rats 'just in case' is certain to disappear, to be replaced by improved preventative measures and visual inspections, with more effective actions and greater support from site occupiers and managers.

Consideration will need to be given to replacing rodenticide baits currently used around the immediate curtilage of building premises and on site boundary and perimeter locations, with other means of detecting rat presence and movement. Kill traps and non-toxic bait or other physical detection methods have a role to play.

Rat infestations arising in 'open areas' that are unconnected with building premises will, in most circumstances, require control by means other than using rodenticides. Burrow fumigation and trapping linked to reducing habitat and other site attractions will need to be considered in these environments.

When rodenticides are used, rat infestations will need to be dealt with by adopting a 'short sharp' approach that will in practice mean thorough, intensively managed treatments that hopefully will continue to be able to utilise the full range of baiting options (hole baiting, placement in natural sites and locations in addition to bait stations).

Baits will need to be cleared up and not left in position, and the likelihood is that rodents remaining on the site will need to be removed by other means such as trapping.

Extending bait presence beyond the initial treatment and eradication phase will need to be justified, risk assessed and documented. Use as a routine approach will no longer be acceptable and these changes will place a premium on monitoring for changes in the status of the site, and evidence of rat activity, so that subsequent measures can be applied appropriately.

The strategy of leaving bait in position to deal with rats coming into a vulnerable area (the 'ring of steel' approach) creates one of the main sources of small mammal contamination, which is a major factor in pesticide residue build-up in birds of prey and other wildlife. Post treatment monitoring will, in most circumstances, require a different approach to this widely used (and misused) current practice.

# RODENT CONTROL

## Non-toxic techniques and monitoring

The proposal to restrict the use of Second Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) is likely to have the single most significant impact in the control and prevention of rats outdoors.

Paul Butt of Natural England discusses the potential future of rodent control in the UK.



“ It’s **vital** that all sectors involved in semi-rural and rural rat control combine to **move away from reliance** on the use of rodenticides. ”



Demands from Europe and pressure particularly from environmental and conservation groups to reduce the SGAR residues found in a wide range of wildlife species, has focused attention on alternative methods and options that may help to resolve these concerns while enabling effective rodent control and prevention to be achieved and maintained.

In the proposed new ‘stewardship scheme’, the sole use of rodenticides will not be relied on, and pest management programmes need to integrate a range of methods, including physical and preventative. This strategy is not a new invention; Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been with us for several decades and although widely accepted as best practice it is often not fully implemented. However, the changes that we now face will require all professional users of rodenticides to review their activities and introduce the changes necessary to meet future regulatory demands, the product label and approval conditions.

For these measures to be adopted by the pest control industry, and be accepted as the standard by all of the key parties involved (including clients, customers, trade associations, assurance schemes and regulators) it will have to be demonstrated that they are practical, cost effective and commercially acceptable for all concerned. Only by co-operation and negotiation between all sectors will this ‘stewardship’ approach succeed, thus avoiding further restrictions and regulation.

## Reducing reliance on rodenticides

Past and current practice particularly in respect of contract rodent control programmes usually involves distributing bait stations containing active bait around the area, both to act as a monitoring measure but also to meet the various demands of clients and auditors who have an influence on how such contract activities are undertaken. The ongoing presence of toxic baits (regardless of the existence of rat activity) is used as justification for extending visits to the typical six to eight week intervals that are commonly employed. Assuming that in general these practices will have to cease, the need to replace them by different strategies that will reduce rodenticide exposure whilst still effectively preventing rodent infestations in a practical and cost effective manner, will become a priority.

associated legal obligations. All trapping operations regardless of the influence of legislation need to take account of welfare and humaneness aspects.

However, significant progress has been made in the use of electronic or other methods of detection in connection with mice within food and other premises. The experience gained in this area should encourage further work on systems to monitor for rats in outdoor locations. If the appropriate criteria can be met then the reassurance this would provide for clients (and the assistance to the pest controller) would be a welcome development and a significant step forward in addressing rodenticide residue concerns.

### ATTRACTANTS AND NON-TOXIC BAITS

Materials that will encourage and persuade rats to enter traps or be effectively drawn to sites and provide the technician with an accurate, early warning of an infestation, has significant merits. Opinions vary regarding the use of food based monitoring with one school of thought viewing this technique as a valuable tool, whilst another considers it counterproductive; attracting rodents to the site without addressing the issue. Adverse reactions from site managers will require skill on the part of the pest professional in convincing these sceptical parties that this approach has merits as part of a rodent control and preventative programme.

For this approach to be effective checking procedures and the interpretation of field signs are critical aspects. Identifying the presence of small mammal droppings and characteristic gnaw marks provides evidence that non-target wildlife are accessing the monitoring points and could be contaminated if toxic bait is used. By linking these checks with survey techniques, it can be possible to pick up early signs of rat presence and respond accordingly.

One aspect that is crucial to both trapping and maximising rat interest in non-toxic baits is the ability to attract and encourage rodents to the location. The development of more "rat friendly" boxes or stations rather than a preoccupation with developing designs that meet tamper resistant standards and what the industry perceives as appropriate specifications would be a helpful introduction.

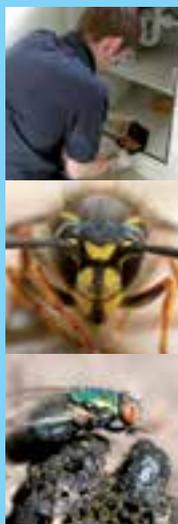
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## Alternative measures

### TRAPPING

There has been little advancement in the design and application of traps, mainly due to a lack of demand and other limiting factors such as doubts regarding efficacy and the need for frequent servicing. However, in anticipation of the changes in rodenticide use, there has been a recent upsurge of interest in these techniques. Contractor use of spring (kill) traps in boxes for perimeter control and monitoring is increasing and there are examples, particularly in rural areas, where there has been a limited switch away from rodenticides to trapping as the method of choice.

The industry has begun to respond to this development and it appears that the main areas being investigated involve multiple kill traps and remote monitoring systems. It is too early to gauge how successful these efforts will be, and there are clearly a number of hurdles to be cleared if these methods are to meet all the demands that will be placed on them. Adopting either spring (kill) trapping or live capture traps requires consideration of a number of aspects including; the frequency of checking, who should undertake this, the disposal of dead and live caught animals and



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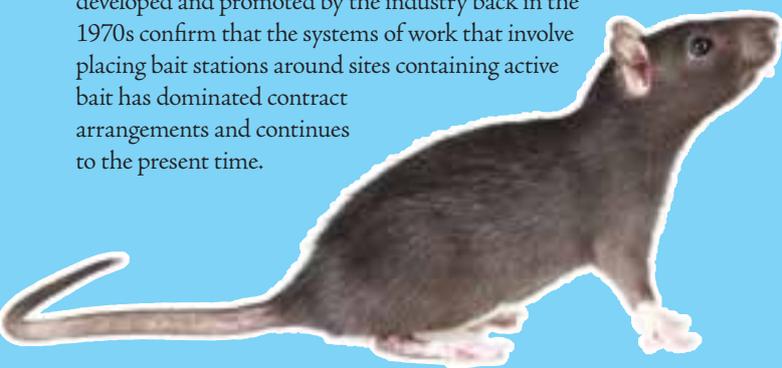
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## PREVENTING INFESTATION AND REDUCING SITE ATTRACTION

Any discussion on dealing with the risk of rats would not be complete without considering ways and options to discourage rodents by denying them food, shelter and water. Integrated management always includes the importance of reducing or eliminating rodent habitat, preventing access to food sources and excluding rats from risk areas or sites where they can establish. We should ask ourselves how many times, and in what circumstances, has there been a failure to achieve these objectives and what are the reasons for these shortcomings?

Poor liaison with clients/site managers and an unwillingness on their part to co-operate, comply or contribute can be factors, but equally, do technicians and field biologists who are obliged to meet contract pressures and constraints, have adequate time to commit attention to these areas? Critical assessment of the practices developed and promoted by the industry back in the 1970s confirm that the systems of work that involve placing bait stations around sites containing active bait has dominated contract arrangements and continues to the present time.



A misguided reliance on the security provided by lockable bait boxes that the bait would be safe from interference during the 2-3 months that will have elapsed until the next inspection, combined with the ease of checking these points during time restricted follow up site visits, provides little scope for carrying out site surveys on which preventative recommendations could be based, may have prevailed in some cases. Critically, these actions ignore the facts that populations of small mammals have unrestricted access to toxic bait. This leads to the now widely recognised problem of residues in wildlife – until the industry and (more importantly) the customers can agree on a change in emphasis then it is likely that the contamination will continue unless, of course, this is resolved by more stringent restrictions imposed by regulation – something we obviously don't want!

It's vital that all sectors involved in semi-rural and rural rat control combine to move away from reliance on the use of rodenticides as the only means of rodent control, and do not avoid making changes to current practices. At the same time be genuine in seeking to adopt what we all know should be best practice. This should no longer just be talked about during training courses, seminars and articles, but instead become the adopted standard that will ensure we retain all the options currently available to deal with this demanding aspect of rodent control.



[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

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## One way ticket for rodents



Following the launch of Bayer's new rodenticide, Racumin® Foam, Head of Sales, Alan Morris explains why he believes the challenges of 'bait-take' can be overcome by using innovative products.

Since the loss of contact dusts a couple of years ago, the success and efficiency of modern rodent control ultimately comes down to the uptake of the bait – 'will they eat it?'

In a practical sense, until you can establish that bait uptake can be achieved, choosing your bait based on factors such as formulation, active ingredient, potency rating and speed of kill are elementary.

Bait shyness, access to other food sources and neophobia can all prove barriers to bait uptake and gaining control with use of traditional baits.

However, manufacturers are responding to these challenges with products such as Bayer's new Racumin® Foam, which gives pest controllers an alternative to the traditional block, grain or pasta bait, says Alan Morris.

"Products have been withdrawn from the market at a rapid rate since about 2008, but new products must fill the void and add fresh tools to the armoury for pest controllers going forward."

At the level of rodenticide development, the first consideration is bait uptake. Obviously in a control situation it's still important to conduct a risk assessment and use rodenticides as part of a wider strategy. When considering the rodenticide itself it's absolutely essential that it will actually reach and affect the target.

An understanding of rodent behaviour and biology is also important. There are a number of fundamental differences and similarities between rats and mice, making it essential to know your enemies individually.

Racumin® Foam is a specialised water-based formulation, designed for use against rats and house mice. The new product contains the first generation active ingredient coumatetralyl, an anti-coagulant that works using the rodent's natural grooming habits taking away the issue of bait palatability.

/continued over...



# CASE STUDY

BPCA Consultant Member, PestTrain, was troubleshooting on a site with a large mouse problem in London and used Racumin® Foam to gain control of the problem. Consultant Chris Parmiter says: “Racumin® Foam offers flexibility of application and, being a contact rodenticide, it doesn’t rely on being consumed in the conventional sense, so it is particularly advantageous where there’s bait shyness or avoidance.”

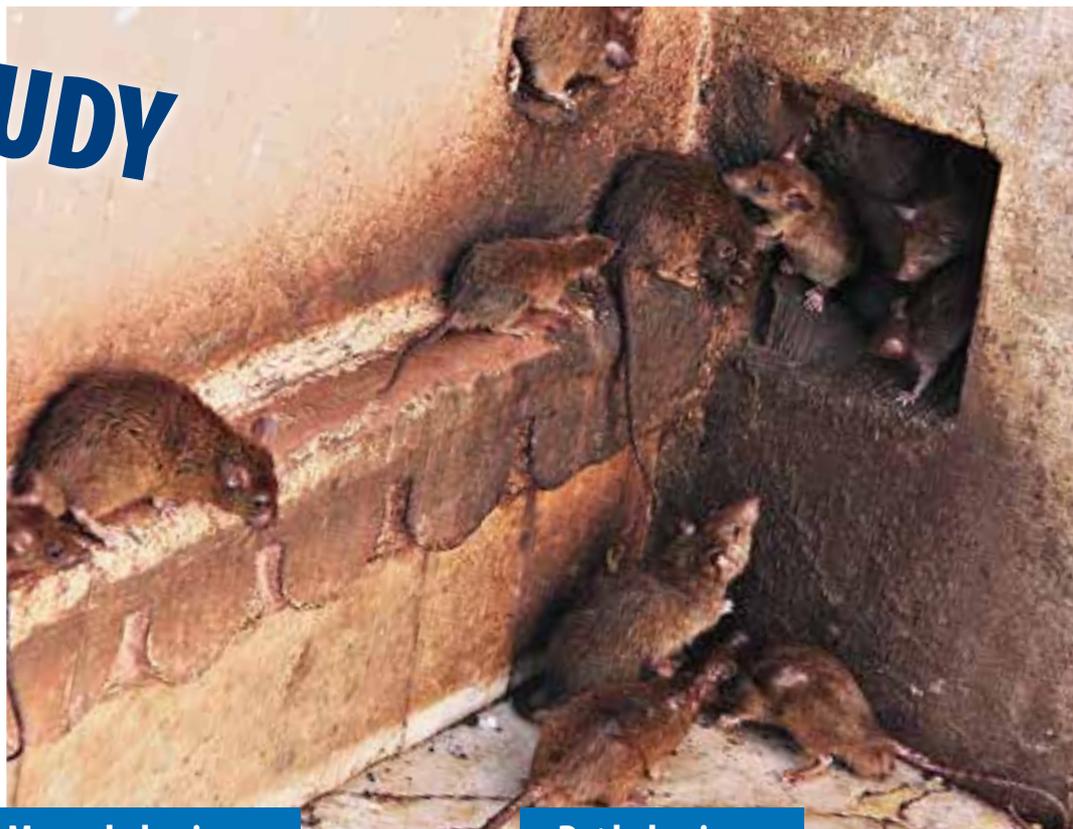
“Once applied it was followed up weekly over an 8 to 10 week period, and we started to see a reduction in the number of mouse sightings. The building was a large, modern and complex office block, so the use of the foam enabled the rodenticide to be applied in hard to reach mouse runways, including in risers and sub-floor areas.”

“It was easy to apply, although it was obviously a bit more difficult in the sub-floor applications where the hole was below the floor level. We would definitely recommend this new product to pest controllers, especially for use as a part of an integrated pest management programme when dealing with an active infestation.”

“

There’s **no such thing** as a **silver bullet** in rodent control.

”



## Mouse behaviour

The house mouse (*Mus musculus*) prefers to spend most of its life indoors in extended family groups of five to nine members. Mice typically spend around 70% of their lives off the ground, creating nests in wall cavities, lofts and insulation in a wide range of buildings where conditions are suitable to support a colony. It’s a very common pest in both urban and agricultural environments.

Large infestations can develop quickly from a single pair of mice. A mouse can be sexually mature from five to six weeks, producing a litter of up to 10 young – female mice can give birth every 21 days.

## Rat behaviour

The behaviour of rats is neophobic: fearful of new objects within their environment. This means they will often avoid any new bait stations until they are confident they are safe, this fear lasting for up to 14 days.

In rural situations, rats tend to live outdoors during the warmer part of the year, and move indoors when the temperature drops and food becomes harder to find, though this may not be the case in urban environments.

In contrast to mice, rats spend most of their life at ground level and avoid open areas with no cover and, despite being perceived as dirty animals, rats spend up to 20% of a 24-hour period grooming their coat and feet. Over the last few years Bayer has been working even more closely with pest controllers from all backgrounds, from agriculture to domestic, to gather information direct from the source in order to help formulate an effective product that is needed by the end user.



### How Racumin® Foam works

The new foam can be placed in areas where the rodents are known to pass, such as access holes, cavity walls and enclosed runs. It's then transferred to the pest's coat as it brushes past, and is ingested straight into its blood stream during routine grooming.

An additional advantage here is that this limits non-target species exposure. Although coumatetralyl is not known for efficacy on mice, the way in which the product is formulated overcomes this issue. Being water-based is key to this: the mice absorb it through the soft tissue in their mouth straight into their bodies, so it doesn't have to compete with other foods in the digestion process.

Alan explains "There's no such thing as a silver bullet in rodent control, but Racumin® Foam provides an excellent additional tool. It can be placed in hard to reach areas, and provides an additional level of control which cannot be achieved with current baiting techniques."

### Application

The new rodenticide is for indoor use only, and has proven effective where bait uptake has been low or where it cannot be applied. Once applied, dependent on humidity levels, the product will last and remain effective for 7 to 12 days.

For rat control users should apply between 20g to 30g of foam, the size of half a brick, and for mice apply 4g, the size of a tennis ball. On average one 500ml can will provide 16-17 baiting points for rats and 120-130 for mice.

When applying to mouse or rat runways or access holes the pest controller must place the foam so that the rodent can see past it, otherwise it will turn around and take a different route. As with all rodent control programmes, make sure the label requirements are followed along with best practice guidelines.

Always apply in places that are inaccessible to children, livestock and non-target species. Also, as the product is water-based, do not apply it on junction boxes or electrics.

The new rodenticide formulation is a timely development and, given the likelihood of future regulatory changes, Racumin® Foam provides a solution to address current pressures on second generation rodenticides, especially in sensitive environments.



Racumin® Foam contains 0.4% w/w coumatetralyl and will be available from reputable suppliers by the end of 2014.

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nearly up!



# Industry-driven excellence

**BPCA Field Officer Natalie Bungay explains the benefit of the new membership criteria to your business.**

As a regular reader of PPC, you may be aware that BPCA's membership criteria are a stage of change. By the end of 2014, all Full Servicing Members must have 100% of their staff involved in the eradication and control of pest species not only qualified to Level 2 (or equivalent), but also to be a member of the BASIS PROMPT or recognised CPD scheme approved by BPCA. New staff (trainees) have 18 months from joining to become qualified and registered on a recognised CPD scheme.

BPCA has been in existence for over 70 years and we are making great strides to increase the knowledge and public understanding of what BPCA stands for, but to also provide our members with benefits they can really value. We of course offer free services ranging from technical assistance to business and safety documentation, CPD training for all your staff, and free CHAS accreditation. One of the key benefits is the amount of business referrals our members receive. Last year we had over 40,000 requests from commercial and domestic customers looking for a BPCA servicing company (your annual return lists the number of referrals for your company – contact the office to find out more). This year we've already surpassed this figure.

Our logo clearly means something to your existing and potential clients, and the introduction of a higher 'bar' of membership criteria will ensure we maintain our position as the premier association for our sector. We have a massive marketing campaign lined up for 2015 to increase the number of member referrals, and embed in specifiers' minds that the shortcut to a quality service is to look for

The criteria of qualification and continuing professional development (CPD) has been driven by the industry itself and is supported by many big-name customers and of course regulators and governing bodies. So it is important that we continue to deliver the public with professional, committed pest controllers. The Level 2 qualification (award or certificate) is considered the entry level for pest controllers. The exam consists of three units: vertebrates, invertebrates and legislation with the pass rate being 50% for each unit. Prepare for the exam by using an RSPH specimen paper or through free exam technique training from BPCA.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) follows the successful achievement of the Level 2 qualification. Candidates who pass will receive free BASIS PROMPT membership for the remaining

year (January to December) which includes a certificate, a picture ID card, and formal recognition that they are a professional pest controller. We have reflected on CPD in many issues of PPC and how points can be gained at varying events, reading magazines and online BPCA quizzes via the free Affiliate Scheme. However, there are many other ways that points can be gained at no material cost, such as being an event organiser yourself. You can also contact me for help in 'thinking outside the box' to gain CPD points. Over the past nine months BASIS PROMPT has received almost 500 event registrations ranging from large seminars to small company tool box talks, all of which can gain those vital points. It's easy to be more in control of your own individual learning, or that of your employees.

the BPCA member logo. We know there is no equivalent out there – now it's time to convince every client in the UK too.

Customers expect not only the company they hire to be legit, but also for the individual technicians carrying out the work to be trained and competent. We are now seeing that HSE and Government are echoing this view for those of you who buy and use SGARs – and we'd expect this to be extended to other biocides in the future. Is the writing on the wall for the unqualified technician? Not yet, but every step brings us closer to a fully-qualified and competent workforce, and that's why BPCA has introduced this criteria now, to ensure your business and staff team are prepared for the future.

With clear lines being drawn by clients and Government alike between the 'cowboy' and

the professional, it highlights the importance of ensuring BPCA maintains specific high standards for those companies becoming and retaining BPCA full servicing membership. Your company may already be a BPCA member, or you may be considering it. Either way, we can help you and your staff team achieve and maintain excellence.

## Useful contacts

BASIS PROMPT 01335 343945  
Natalie Bungay 01332 225104

[www.bpca.org.uk/training](http://www.bpca.org.uk/training)  
[www.bpca.org.uk/events](http://www.bpca.org.uk/events)  
[www.rsph.org.uk](http://www.rsph.org.uk)  
[www.basispestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.basispestcontrol.co.uk)

# Training in 2015

Training is always of paramount importance in business, whether it is to ensure that your new team members have the underpinning knowledge that they need to carry out their jobs successfully, or to provide appropriate development opportunities for existing staff to ensure the business continues to move forward, stay fresh and keep up with the times. With this in mind, BPCA's new and exciting 2015 training schedule is now published.

BPCA has taken on board feedback from its members about future training requirements and you will notice that there is something for everyone. We have added more locations, Saturday exam dates, additional slots throughout the year, and new courses.

## What is available for new businesses or new team members?

New businesses will gain lots of helpful and instantly useable information by attending BPCA's one-day 'Starting Out in Pest Control' course. Packed with useful hints, tips and resources guaranteed to help new business start-ups get moving profitably. 'Starting Out in Pest Control' is now being delivered in Derby and in the South.

For your new team members, you would be well advised to ensure that they attend the five day residential 'General Pest Control Course' which will lead to the Level 2 Award in Pest Management. Alternatively the one day per week for five weeks 'Modular Pest Control' course which leads to the Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management. Both of these courses are always popular and demand

is high so we have added new dates and locations for 2015. BPCA is happy to announce additional residential courses at Warwick University, one in Scotland and one in the South and modular courses in the North, South and Midlands for 2015. Check the BPCA website to see which location and dates are best for you.

## Already have a Level 2 in Pest Management? Want to develop further?

If your team members have already completed the Level 2 Award or Certificate in Pest Management, you might be wondering 'what next?' How about cementing their knowledge or diversifying by booking your staff onto our 'How to Sell in Pest Control' or 'Successful Bed Bug Control' courses.

If you believe that your team member is ready for the next step, why not consider putting them forward to become an Accredited Technician in Pest Control, Technical Inspector or Certificated Field Biologist, or even join the 'elite' and work towards achieving a Level 3 Award in Pest Management. Did you know only a couple of people in the UK have achieved this

qualification to date? Could your team member be the next?

For those senior technicians providing services to clients in high-pressure food environments, you may want to become a Technical Inspector. You will be required to achieve a minimum of a Level 2 in Food Safety and a minimum of a Level 2 in Health & Safety. To go a stage further and become a Certificated Field Biologist, you will need a minimum of a Level 2 in Health & Safety and a level 3 in Food Safety. BPCA will be announcing dates for these courses in 2015 very soon, so to reserve your place contact us.

By November 2015, anyone wishing to purchase Aluminium Phosphide products for vertebrate control must be suitably qualified. BPCA is pleased to announce we will be running the Level 2 Award in using Aluminium Phosphide Safely.

## Struggling to get to a Friday exam?

Historically, RSPH/BPCA Level 2 in Pest Management Award exams have been arranged for Fridays. To offer as much flexibility as possible, BPCA and RSPH have joined forces and not only is there a wide choice of venues, but they will be available on different days throughout 2015, including Saturdays.

BPCA trust you will find something in 2015 that's right for you. If you can't find what you need, please contact the Training team who will be sure to discuss your requirements and see how BPCA can help. [www.bpca.org.uk/training](http://www.bpca.org.uk/training)

## Pest Management examiners required

The RSPH is currently looking for experienced pest controllers to join its pool of examiners.



Duties will include writing and reviewing examination questions, compiling examination papers from question banks, reviewing examination papers and marking candidate scripts.

### Interested?

If you would like to become an examiner for our suite of pest management qualifications send your CV to Richard Burton, Head of Qualifications Development, at [rburton@rsph.org.uk](mailto:rburton@rsph.org.uk)

Examiners will not be able to carry out training for any of the RSPH qualifications that they are involved in examining. It is a condition of Ofqual, the regulator for accredited awarding organisations, that examiners should not carry out training for any of the qualifications that they examine.

[www.rsph.org.uk](http://www.rsph.org.uk) Twitter: @R\_S\_P\_H Facebook: Royal Society for Public Health LinkedIn: Royal Society for Public Health

# BPCA regional forums 2014

Designed to give you the chance to network, deliver CPD, help your business compete, and keep you and your staff up-to-date with the latest legislative changes, product innovations and best practice.

## Where we've been in 2014



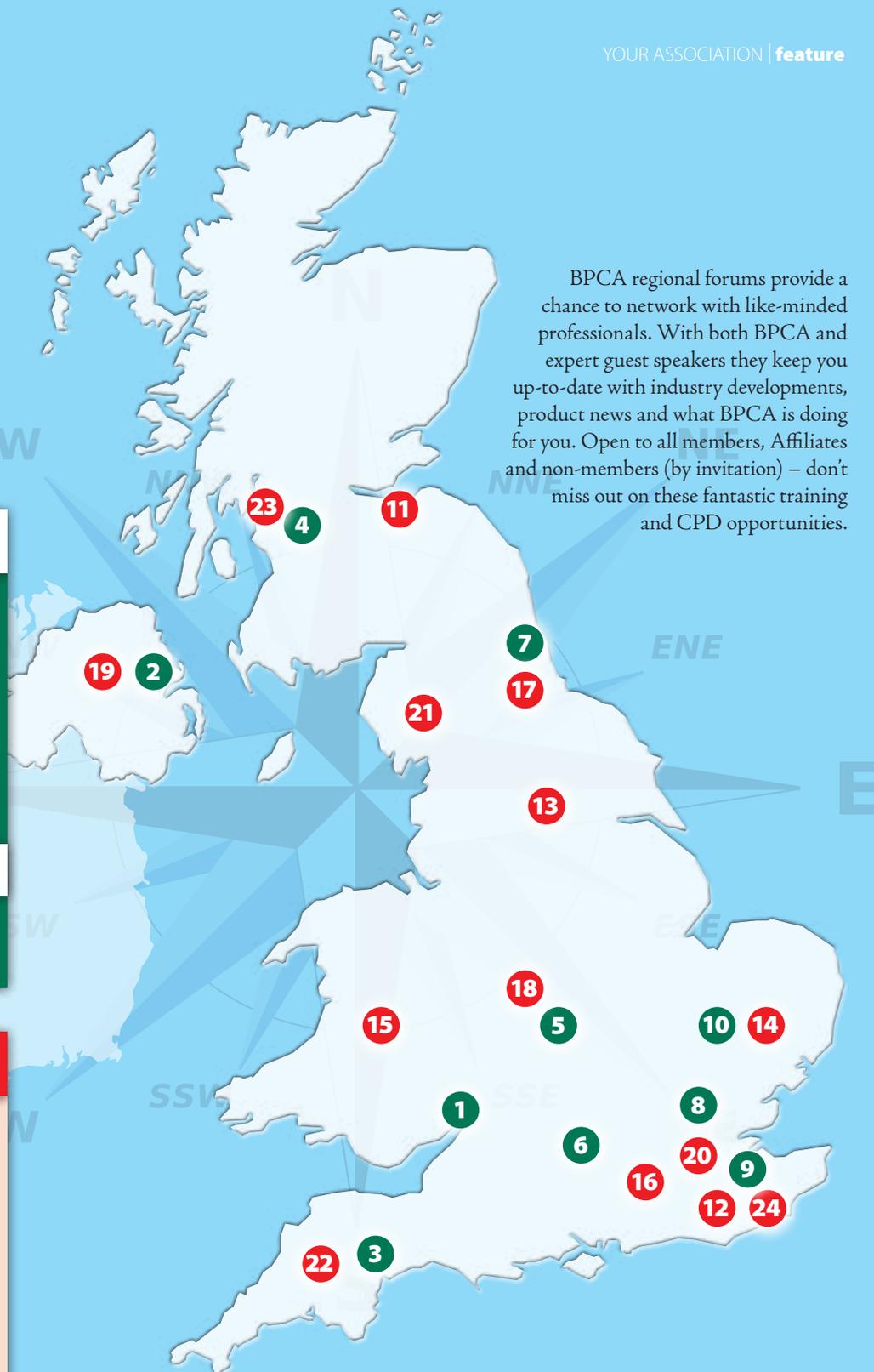
Location	Date	Attendees	CPD
1 Chepstow	5 Mar	13	4
2 Ballyclare	3 Apr	23	4
3 Exeter	29 Apr	33	4
4 Hamilton	4 June	26	4
5 Coventry	25 June	38	4
6 Newbury	25 Sept	51	4
7 Newcastle	9 Oct	20	4
8 Shenley	22 Oct	25	4

## Where we've still to go

9 Maidstone	20 Nov	4
10 Newmarket	4 Dec	4

## Where we're going in 2015

Location	Date
11 Edinburgh	28 January
12 Kent	4 February
13 Yorkshire	25 February
14 Eastern Counties	11 March
15 Wales	29 April
16 Home Counties	13 May
17 North East	20 May
18 Midlands	10 June
19 Northern Ireland	23 September
20 London	7 October
21 North West	21 October
22 South West	11 November
23 Glasgow	18 November
24 South East	9 December



BPCA regional forums provide a chance to network with like-minded professionals. With both BPCA and expert guest speakers they keep you up-to-date with industry developments, product news and what BPCA is doing for you. Open to all members, Affiliates and non-members (by invitation) – don't miss out on these fantastic training and CPD opportunities.

**“Very informative meeting!”**

Paul Walker, Valley Pest Control

**“Great content and variety.”**

Philip Halpin, Countrywide Environmental Services

**“These forums are a great opportunity for members – in particular, for saving valuable time by providing assistance in key knowledge areas.”**

Kevin Higgins, BPCA membership manager

## JUST A TASTE OF WHAT YOU'VE MISSED...

- SGAR changes and stewardship
- Key changes to asbestos regulations
- BPCA Code of Practice on Pesticide Waste

- Use of air rifles to include regulations, storage and transportation
- Urban bird control
- Technology and innovation in the pest control industry

For more information and to book a place contact Lauren on 01332 225 111  
[lauren@bpca.org.uk](mailto:lauren@bpca.org.uk)

[www.bpca.org.uk/regionals](http://www.bpca.org.uk/regionals)

# Bioacoustics

## The key to starling management success

When it comes to managing pest birds such as starlings there are a myriad of controls available, including exclusion tools, visuals, pyrotechnics, acoustics, movement devices, exclusion devices and bioacoustic systems. Brendan Tarrant, Managing Director of BirdGard (UK & Ireland) Distributors, examines why bioacoustic systems should form the nucleus of any starling and bird management strategy, specifically looking at the control of starlings as the winter immigrants arrive in the UK from Northern Europe and North West Russia.

### What are bioacoustic systems and how do they work?

Bioacoustics is the science of the relationship between living things and sound.

The most effective bioacoustic systems will be species specific, and will trigger a primal fear and flee response in the pest bird. This incorporates the use of real distress calls, real danger calls and real harassment sounds of the target species to prompt pest birds to take flight. Effective bioacoustic systems must also incorporate the named predators or raptors that prey on the target species.

Bioacoustic bird management is not simply a matter of the birds hearing the distress, danger and harassment calls and predator calls. Anti-habituation technology combined with ongoing active management of set up and programming switches is an essential component of effective control.

The distress, danger and harassment calls as well as raptor calls must be non-sequential to prevent the birds from adapting to a pre-set pattern of sounds.



### About starlings

Starlings are cavity nesters.

Unpaired males decorate a cavity in order to attract a female.

Usually, nesting in March and April, the females will lay eggs every day for seven days, with both the male and female incubating the eggs during the day, and only the female at night. Typically, one brood is raised per year, but occasionally there can be two.

Starlings are big business especially during the autumn and winter months as they arrive in biblical proportions to our shores from the colder climates of Europe, fusing with our native population. Arriving in large flocks around September and October, and remaining with us until March and April when the native population pairs off to breed while the visitors return home.

### Why starling control?

Starlings are ubiquitous and present many opportunities for pest controllers. Damage results from both the starlings' roosting and

feeding habits. Just some of the many problems caused by starlings include:

### FOULING

In urban environments, droppings foul pavements, disfigure buildings and monuments and damage stonework, as the uric acid in starling faeces is corrosive to stone, metal and masonry and can damage expensive plant and machinery. In rural roosts, which are usually in dense thickets, the combined action of large quantities of starling guano and the weight of birds on branches can eventually kill the trees.

### CONTAMINATION

Starlings often contaminate raw materials, animal feed, bathing water and reservoirs.

### SCAVENGING

Starlings are excellent scavengers and opportunists. Known for taking grain from farms and agricultural units, they have the ability to take a considerable proportion of animal feed. Starlings are also regular scavengers at landfill sites, bin storage areas, and food processing plants.

### DISEASE

Starlings may act as vectors of human and livestock diseases due to their commensal habits. If found in food processing plants, livestock units, poultry farms and landfills, this will raise both compliance and health and safety issues.

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**When dealing with a starling problem, there are two management methods to consider:**

**1. PROOFING**

Starlings are fairly small and agile birds so other management methods may not be as effective. Some spike systems with appropriate installation techniques can deter them, although the installation of 28mm mesh netting or weldmesh will prove more effective.

**2. SCARING**

Scaring using distress calls in conjunction with other loud noises can be very effective at moving starlings on. Managed scaring systems using distress calls as the main technique have also been found to be effective at dispersing summer resident starlings from daytime feeding areas. However, not all scaring systems are effective over a sustained period of time as birds can adapt to a pre-set pattern of sounds. This is where bioacoustic systems come in, not to be confused with squawkers and noise makers.

Bioacoustic systems incorporate a mixture of distress calls, danger calls, and real harassment sounds in a non-sequential mode, to prevent the target species from adapting to the sounds. Essentially, bioacoustics is not just a matter of the birds hearing the sounds, as quality systems incorporate sounds of predators or raptors that prey on the target species for maximum effect.

Richard Moseley, Technical Manager at BPCA, reminds us that in most cases lethal control measures are not applicable for starling control in England, as they are a protected species that do not appear on the General Licenses. "Before undertaking starling control, pest controllers should consider the available deterrent measures and



apply them to their particular situation. In any case, bioacoustic systems have an important role to play in any control strategy."

**Installation of bioacoustic systems**

As with any form of pest management, the key to ensuring effective control is the correct implementation, application and installation. With bioacoustic systems this is no different. Firstly, at least one speaker must be installed in each building affected by pest birds, and at least one outside speaker should be used to control any areas such as power lines or trees where birds might congregate before entering the affected building. If birds are using tall trees as a vantage point, use one speaker at mid-canopy height and another one to cover the area under the canopy.

For large sheds, two or more speakers may be used and where surrounding area contains obstructions or multiple mustering points, extra speakers may also be required. Speakers should be facing along the length of the building and positioned slightly above the level at which birds are feeding or roosting. In sensitive areas near to human habitation sound can be dissipated by the use of a greater numbers of speakers. A good analogy would be that of piped music in a supermarket. It would be very uncomfortable to have music blaring from one of the far

**Starling predators – some interesting facts...**

- The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrines*) is the fastest member of the animal kingdom reaching speeds of over 200mph during its hunting stoop or high speed dive. It is the world's most widespread raptor.
- The sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) often hunts in towns and cities. Females can survive seven days without food, males can survive only three.
- The northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) can fly with great accuracy through a small aperture at very high speeds.



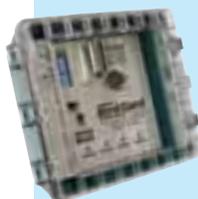
extremities of the building whereas a speaker placed in each aisle will spread the sound around the supermarket at a more moderate level.

**Summary**

Starling management can be a lucrative business opportunity when approached correctly. It is important to note, however, that not all bioacoustic systems are the same. The flexibility of the system, and the number of anti-habituation modes built in is an important factor. The ability to target individual species one, at a time, with their own particular distress calls, danger calls, and harassment sounds as well as the particular predators calls relevant to that species are all important ingredients.

**The final word**

When dealing with starlings and other pest birds, bioacoustic systems should form the nucleus of your management strategy. It's not the only control measure you can use, but it needs to be a part of a holistic approach to bird management and form part of an integrated pest management approach.



**Having problems with other bird species?**

BirdGard (UK & Ireland) Distributors supplies a range of unique bioacoustic bird management systems and has a library of over 120 different electronically programmed read only memory (EPROM) chips to repel most species of pest bird. For further details call 0800 988 0499.

[www.BirdGard.co.uk](http://www.BirdGard.co.uk)





# PestEX

## THE PREMIER PEST CONTROL EVENT

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Following a complete sell-out in 2013, PestEx organiser, the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) has made room for additional stands at the eagerly anticipated event of 2015.

PestEx is the UK's largest trade exhibition and conference for the pest control industry. Taking place on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 March 2015 at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London, this established and leading industry event is set to remain a prime choice for visitors and exhibitors from across the world.

Promising to be the biggest ever UK exhibition, PestEx 2015 will not only feature 100+ exhibitors, but also a range of seminar and technical sessions designed to keep visitors up-to-date with the latest industry news, legislation, developments, products and innovations, including sessions with major clients and specifiers. The much-anticipated seminar and technical programme is due to be announced soon.

BPCA President Mr Martin Harvey commented,

"Manufacturers from across the globe clearly see PestEx as the place to launch new products, and professional pest controllers know that PestEx is the place to pick up details on all the key innovations, research and best practice. So to meet the growing demand, we have expanded the range of stands and seminar sessions for next year's event. We would like to invite

every pest controller to attend PestEx, our free exhibition and conference event. It would be our honour to welcome you to London in March 2015."



### ABOUT PESTEX

Hosted by BPCA, PestEx is the premier event for anyone involved in the pest control industry. From pest management business owners to pest control field technicians PestEx has been devised with you in mind.

PestEx attracts over 2,000 visitors over the two days from all over the world, with a high volume of UK and European visitors. Our visitor list includes business owners; technicians; consultants; public health authorities; governmental bodies; trusts; charities; associations; and overseas visitors involved in the pest control industry.

### WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

- PestEx is a free two day exhibition that focuses solely on pest control.
- Find out about the latest innovations and developments in the industry.
- Improve your knowledge through our technical, business and research seminar programme.
- Network with like-minded professionals and share best practice.
- Access special exhibition product and service prices from exhibitors.
- You could win one of many free prizes just for turning up.



Attending PestEx will be worth four CPD points per day, plus one point per seminar with BASIS PROMPT.

Our PestEx special edition of PPC 78, released early 2015, will give you a sneak preview into PestEx, including exhibitors, seminar schedule and visiting tips.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PESTEX AND REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE VISITOR PLACE AT [WWW.PESTEX.ORG](http://WWW.PESTEX.ORG)**



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