SIGNAGE

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNAGE WHERE VERTEBRATE
TOXIC AGENTS ARE LAID OUTDOORS FOR PEST CONTROL

PRODUCED BY
National Pest Control Agencies
ABOUT NPCA

This document was published by NPCA (National Pest Control Agencies) which, until part way through 2018, provided a co-ordinating forum for agencies and stakeholders to address vertebrate animal pest control in New Zealand. In 2018 its role was largely taken over by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

PUBLICATIONS

Most of NPCA’s publications on animal pest control were partially updated in April 2018 and transferred to the library section of the Ministry for Primary Industries' ‘BioNet’ online portal. The updates reflect the transfer and also acknowledge the change in the regulatory regime during 2017 and 2018, while not fully incorporating these changes in the interim, pending further reviews of the publications. Written by experienced practitioners, the main titles cover:

- best practice guidelines on controlling and monitoring vertebrate pests; and
- information about relevant regulations.

The transferred publications can be found at www.bionet.nz/library

REMEMBER

Follow Label Directions
Have Safety Data Sheet On Hand

National Poisons Centre
24 hour emergency service
0800 764 766

General Emergency
Dial 111
SIGNAGE

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This guide may be updated from time to time, so please check that your version is current by checking the publications section on www.bionet.nz/library or contacting info@bionet.nz.
AMENDMENTS IN THIS EDITION

This April 2018 edition has been updated as part of an interim generic review of most NPCA publications. The purpose is twofold.

» Firstly, to reflect the substantial change in the regulatory regime relating to Health and Safety and use of VTAs (Vertebrate Toxic Agents) in the workplace, which now both sit under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, and associated regulations.

» Secondly, to change links to other NPCA publications and contact details now that NPCA’s publications have been transferred to the BioNet portal, run by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

The full nature of the regulatory changes have NOT been fully captured here, and users are directed to the source legislation and website information provided by the various administering agencies.

This interim review is intended to be followed up more fully in due course.
CONTENTS

PART 1.  INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................. 3
  1.1  Background and purpose......................................................................................... 3
  1.2  Cautions ................................................................................................................. 3
  1.3  Structure and Use of this document ......................................................................... 3
  1.4  Acknowledgements .............................................................................................. 3

PART 2.  PRACTICAL SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS .......................................................... 4
  2.1  Signs on Department of Conservation (DOC) Lands ............................................. 4
  2.2  Read the Label ....................................................................................................... 4
  2.3  Three Acts and Permissions ................................................................................ 5
  2.4  Placement of Signs ............................................................................................... 5
  2.5  What must be included on Signs to comply with ACVM Conditions .................... 6
  2.6  Maintenance of Signs .......................................................................................... 9
  2.7  Recovery of Signs ................................................................................................ 9

APPENDIX I: ABBREVIATIONS .................................................................................. 12
PART 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and purpose
These guidelines were commissioned by the Biosecurity Managers Group through the National Pest Control Agencies (NPCA).

These guidelines apply where VTA’s are laid outdoors in bait form. The legal requirements for signage in these circumstances are summarised with respect to content, design, installation, maintenance and recovery of signs.

The primary audience is field staff and contractors responsible for vertebrate pest control programs, and pest managers responsible for ensuring signs in use meet minimum standards.

1.2 Cautions
This document attempts to collate minimum legal requirements for signage in the field. It is not intended to be a detailed analysis of legislation.

This document is not a Code of Practice. Complying with this document provides no protection if legal requirements are not met.

When subject to legislative requirements readers are directed to the legislation itself and asked to consult their legal advisors.

The legislation referred to in these guidelines is liable to change.

Additional Best Practice Guidelines for the safe use of vertebrate toxic agents are also available. Those complementary guidelines should be read in conjunction with this specific commentary on signage.

1.3 Structure and Use of this document
Following this introductory Part One, there are two further parts. Part Two is about the practical application of the signage rules and regulations. Part Three is a more detailed consideration of the rules and regulations, and matters to consider, particularly for those who are not operating within an Approved Code of Practice.

1.4 Acknowledgements
Thanks to the expert working group involved in the preparation of these guidelines. We acknowledge the contribution of the Department of Conservation and the detailed review and commentary provided by other members of the expert working group.
PART 2. PRACTICAL SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Signs on Department of Conservation (DOC) Lands
All Warning signs for pesticides operations carried out by DOC or on lands managed or administered by DOC must meet the DOC standards. Warning sign of any other design must not be used. http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/run-a-project/our-procedures-and-sops/managing-animal-pests/warning-sign-templates/

The relevant DOC SOP is “consultation and notification for pest operations” at http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/run-a-project/our-procedures-and-sops/managing-animal-pests/standard-operating-procedures/ The SOP includes an excellent summary of options and suppliers of various types of signage material and printing.

2.2 Read the Label
Requirements specific to the bait you propose to lay outdoors will be stated on the label. You must comply with label requirements.
2.3 Three Acts and Permissions

The signage requirements for hazardous substances remain largely the same following the shift to Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSW) of the hazardous substances regulatory regime.

Requirements that stay the same include:

- threshold quantities that necessitate displaying signs
- the information that the signs need to include
- the locations where you need to display the signs.

The signage requirements for class 9 (ecotoxic) substances also remain the same but are now set under the Environmental Protection Authority’s (EPA’s) Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice 2017 (the HPC Notice). To read this notice, see the EPA website at www.epa.govt.nz.

Some locations and substances have new signage requirements and the new regulations also explain your duty to maintain signs relating to hazardous substances.

You need to maintain your signs. This means updating the information on the signs as soon as practicable, if there is a change in the type, class or quantity of hazardous substances at your workplace that affects the type of signs you need to display. Keep your signs clean, in good repair and not covered or obscured.

If you store a class 6.1A, 6.1B, or 6.1C vertebrate toxic agent (VTA) or agrichemical at a temporary storage site outdoors (and not in a building or a room or a compartment in a building) you do not need to display signs. Such a site could be a temporary handling site for field bait or an aircraft loading site.

For more information on signage requirements, including some helpful example sign templates, see WorkSafe’s guide – Hazardous substance signage - quick guide (PDF 54 KB)

If you are not sure whether you need signs for the substances and quantities at your workplace, use the WorkSafe Calculator to find out.

Remember that there may be additional signage requirements from:

- the EPA, via HPC notices;
- the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) group at the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) under the ACVM Act. (These additional requirements, if any, will be found on the product label and must also be complied with);
- conditions imposed by permitting authorities. For example, on DOC lands, the DOC signage templates must be used.

2.4 Placement of Signs

You must put up warning signs at all normal points of entry to the treatment area when you use:
• Cyanide
• 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate)
• Phosphorus
• PAPP (para-aminopropiophenone)
• MZP (zinc phosphide)
• DRC1339 (starlicide)
• Sodium nitrite.

When using any other VTA, except for rotenone, in a place where there is public access you must post warning signs at every normal access point. This includes parks, reserves, roadsides and public rights of way.

2.5 What must be included on Signs to comply with ACVM Conditions

If signs must comply with conditions under the ACVM Act, then they must state;

a) that it is an offence for any person to remove the sign(s) prior to clearance of the area;
b) that it is an offence for any person (other than the applicator) to remove/move baits from the area;
c) warn of potential harm to dogs; and
d) only in the case of Brodifacoum bait for possum control, or bait containing cholecalciferol, a warning that feral animals may contain residues of the toxin and should not be taken for food.

For example:

• Unauthorised removal of signs or baits is an offence, and
• Restrain your dog
  or;
• Poison baits or carcasses are deadly to dogs, and
• Do not eat feral animals from the area.

There are no specific requirements for any particular size of signs or font size for writing. Signs should obviously be fit for purpose.

Section 23 of the ACVM Act allows the Director-General to place conditions on trade name products, including:

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1 The applicable substances being brodifacoum, cholecalciferol, phosphorus, pindone, cyanide, 1080, MZP, PAPP.
23 Conditions on trade name products

(1) The Director-General may register a trade name product in accordance with section 21, subject to all or any of the following conditions: . . .

(m) Such other conditions as the Director-General considers necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

(2) A condition imposed in accordance with this section may apply to any specified class of person or to every person who imports, manufactures, sells, or uses a trade name product; and every person to whom a condition applies must comply with that condition.

MPI has placed conditions relating to signage on a range of VTA's. These conditions are on the label. ► Ensure you check label conditions for up to date requirements. Conditions for all VTA's can be found at http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/registers-lists/. However, the various resources on that website are not always up to date, so ensure you also check label requirements.

MPI requirements are in addition to any signage requirements imposed under the HSNO legislation. The following table summarises the relevant MPI conditions for signage in the field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Conditions relating to signage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BRODIFACOUM POSSUM BAIT          | 57. If the product is applied where the public may have access to the treatment area, signs must be posted in prominent places around the perimeter of the treated area. The signs must remain in place until monitoring confirms that the product is no longer present. Signs must:  
  a) state that it is an offence for any person to remove the sign(s) prior to clearance of the area;  
  b) state that it is an offence for any person (other than the person(s) applying the product) to remove/move baits from the area;  
  c) warn of potential harm to dogs;  
  d) warn that feral animals may contain residues of the toxin and should not be taken for food.  
  54. Signage must:  
  • remain in place for a minimum of 9 months after baiting has ceased, and  
  • in public areas, signs must remain for a period of 12 months after baits have been removed or destroyed. |
| (No signage conditions for brodifacoum rodent bait) |                                                                                               |
| CHOLECALCIFEROL                  | 57. If the product is applied where the public may have access to the treatment area, signs must be posted in prominent places around |

7
the perimeter of the treated area. The signs must remain in place until monitoring confirms that the product is no longer present. Signs must:

a) state that it is an offence for any person to remove the sign(s) prior to clearance of the area;

b) state that it is an offence for any person (other than the person(s) applying the product) to remove/move baits from the area;

c) warn of potential harm to dogs;

d) warn that feral animals may contain residues of the toxin and should not be taken for food.

Where applied in biodegradable bait bags: – signs must be remain in place until baits are no longer toxic but must remain for no less than 4 months after the last application of bait.

Where applied in contained bait stations: – signs must remain in place for no less than 3 months after:

- baits have been retrieved or
- are no longer present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any product containing:</th>
<th>49. If the label indicates the product can only be sold to and/or used by a person holding a <strong>controlled substances licence</strong> then the following apply.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOSPHORUS,</td>
<td>Signs must be posted in prominent places around the perimeter of the treated area. The signs must remain in place until monitoring confirms that the product is no longer present. Signs must:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINDONE,</td>
<td>a) state that it is an offence for any person to remove the sign(s) prior to clearance of the area;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTASSIUM CYANIDE,</td>
<td>b) state that it is an offence for any person (other than the person(s) applying the product) to remove/move baits from the area;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SODIUM CYANIDE,</td>
<td>c) warn of potential harm to dogs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SODIUM FLUOROACETATE,</td>
<td><strong>Cyanide:</strong> – signs must remain in place for not less than 2 months after the last date on which the paste was laid and until baits are retrieved, destroyed, have disintegrated or are no longer toxic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPP,</td>
<td><strong>1080:</strong> – signs must remain in place until baits are retrieved or are no longer toxic, or until any other legal requirement affecting signage has been complied with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZINC PHOSPIDE</td>
<td><strong>Pindone in contained bait station</strong> application: – signs must remain for 2 months after baits have been retrieved or if baits are</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
not retrieved, signs must remain for 8 months after the last baits were applied

*Pindone* where the product may *only be bought or applied by a person holding a Controlled Substances License*: – signs must remain until monitoring confirms that the product is no longer present.

*Phosphorus*: – signs must remain in place until baits are retrieved or when baits disintegrate or are destroyed but for no less than 1 month after the last baits were laid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance and Use</th>
<th>Recovery of Signs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sodium fluoroacetate (1080 poison) | Signs must remain in place until the latest of:
| | • A minimum of 6 months, |
| | • or longer if bait or carcass monitoring demonstrates ongoing risk. |
| Alphachloralose | Signs must remain until baits are retrieved, have disintegrated or are otherwise no longer present at the place (e.g. eaten by birds). |
| Brodifacoum bait for possum control using bait stations. | Signs must remain in place for a minimum of 9 months after baiting has ceased but on lands to which the public ordinarily has access, signs must remain in place for 12 months after:
| | • baits have been retrieved or |

Any VTA not listed above. No signage conditions from ACVM. Only HSNO Regulations apply.

2.6 Maintenance of Signs

All signs must be maintained in good condition until they are no longer required to remain in place. This will require regular checking, and the interval of checks will depend on the likelihood of damage, deterioration or vandalism. Where the Medical Officer of Health imposes conditions, he or she may include specific requirements for the maintenance of signs.

2.7 Recovery of Signs

The information tabulated below remains mostly relevant and correct. However, check the new HSW requirement, product label conditions, and any conditions imposed by permitting authorities for your operations to ensure ongoing compliance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Signage Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brodifacoum bait for rodent control in bait stations</td>
<td>Signs must remain in place for 12 months after:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- baits have been retrieved or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- are no longer present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodifacoum bait for rodent control applied by aircraft.</td>
<td>Signage period for private land is not specified by the Code of Practice for Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R, but the public relations requirements of the Code imply signage as per public areas. If the area is one to which the public ordinarily has access, signs must remain in place for 12 months after the last application of the substance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromadiolone</td>
<td>Signs must remain for 12 months after:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- baits have been retrieved or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- are no longer present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flocoumafen</td>
<td>Signs must remain for 12 months after:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- baits have been retrieved or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- are no longer present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coumatetralyl</td>
<td>Signs must remain for 2 months after baits have been retrieved or if baits are not retrieved, 8 months after the last baits were applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphacinone</td>
<td>Signs must remain for 2 months after baits have been retrieved or if baits are not retrieved, 8 months after the last baits were applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholecalciferol when laid in a biodegradable bait bag.</td>
<td>Signs must be remain in place until baits are no longer toxic, but must remain for no less than 4 months after the last application of bait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholecalciferol when applied/ contained in bait stations.</td>
<td>Signs must remain in place for no less than 3 months after:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- baits have been retrieved or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- are no longer present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pindone contained ground based applications.</td>
<td>Signs must remain for 2 months after baits have been retrieved or if baits are not retrieved, signs must remain for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Type</td>
<td>Duration and Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pindone where the product may only be bought or applied by a person holding a Controlled Substances License</td>
<td>Signs must remain until monitoring confirms that the product is no longer present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Cyanide Paste Baits</td>
<td>Signs must be erected at every normal point of entry to the treatment area. Signs must remain until baits have been removed or have disintegrated or have been destroyed or are no longer toxic but signs must remain for no less than 2 months after the last baits were applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium Cyanide Paste Baits</td>
<td>Signs must be erected at every normal point of entry to the treatment area. Signs must remain until baits have been removed or have disintegrated or have been destroyed or are no longer toxic but signs must remain for no less than 4 months after the last baits were applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium Cyanide encapsulated Pellet Baits</td>
<td>Signs must be erected at every normal point of entry to the treatment area. If applied in biodegradable bait bags, signs must remain until the substance is no longer toxic but for no less than 4 months after baits were last applied. If applied in bait stations or other ground based means, signs must remain for no less than 2 months after baits have been retrieved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus</td>
<td>Signs must remain in place until baits are retrieved or when baits disintegrate or are destroyed but for no less than 1 month after the last baits were laid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC1339</td>
<td>Signs must remain in place until baits are retrieved or when baits disintegrate or are destroyed but for no less than 1 month after the last baits were laid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPP</td>
<td>Signs must remain in place until baits are retrieved or when baits are no longer toxic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MZP</td>
<td>Signs must remain in place minimum 6 months, or until the date the substance or carcasses are no longer toxic or presents an exposure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## APPENDIX I: ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1080</td>
<td>Sodium fluoroacetate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACVM</td>
<td>Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOC</td>
<td>Department of Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC1339</td>
<td>starlicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSNO</td>
<td>Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSW</td>
<td>Health and Safety at Work Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>Ministry for Primary Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MZP</td>
<td>Microencapsulated zinc phosphide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPCA</td>
<td>National Pest Control Agencies (winding up in 2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPP</td>
<td>Para-aminopropiophenone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTA</td>
<td>Vertebrate Toxic Agent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>