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# VERTEBRATE TOXIC AGENTS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE USE AND HANDLING, BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES



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#### **ABOUT NPCA**

NPCA (National Pest Control Agencies) assists those involved in vertebrate animal pest control in New Zealand.

Animal pests are a serious threat to both New Zealand's native flora and fauna and its primary production sector. We help address this threat by providing a co-ordinating forum for all those involved in vertebrate pest management, be it practical pest control and monitoring in the field, strategic management, policy making, pest research or technology development.

#### **OUR PUBLICATIONS**

We produce a range of publications containing up-to-date, practical information on animal pest control. They are written by experienced practitioners and updated regularly to ensure they reflect current best practice.

Our publications include:

- best practice guidelines on controlling and monitoring vertebrate pests;
- information about relevant regulations;
- public awareness and education material for schools.

#### REMEMBER

Follow Label Directions Have Safety Data Sheet On Hand

National Poisons Centre 24 hour emergency service 0800 764 766

EPA Helpline 0800 376 234

General Emergency **Dial 111** 



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# **VERTEBRATE TOXIC AGENTS**

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE USE AND HANDLING, BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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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.npca.org.nz** or by contacting NPCA direct.

#### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS IN THIS EDITION

- 1. Renumbering of the main section headings to include the introductory section.
- 2. Minor updates to correct organisation names where these had changed and, where necessary, to update website references, links and references to legislation and by-laws, and to add or replace additional reference sources.
- 3. Minor amendments, which improve clarity or explanation but are not consequential content changes.
- 4. Substances relevant to approved handler and controlled substance certificates updated in Part 4.
- 5. Importance of communication added in Part 8 with links to requirements for aerial application of 1080.
- 6. Permission needed for use of sodium nitrate to control pigs on non-DOC land added under section 8.2.
- 7. New expanded section at the start of Part 15, Warning Signs, including details of location requirements for specific VTAs.
- 8. More references to specific guidelines on aerial application of VTAs added.

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# PART 1. PURPOSE

These guidelines were commissioned by the Biosecurity Managers Group through the NPCA.

Regulatory aspects for use of vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs) are summarised and made available. Additional best practice standards for the safe use and handling of (VTAs) are also included. The primary audience is the field staff and contractors responsible for vertebrate pest control programs.

## 1.1 Cautions

This document attempts to collate minimum legal requirements for the use of vertebrate toxic agents. It is not intended to be a detailed analysis of legislation. Some transitional provisions remain in force until 30 June 2007, but most will expire mid to late 2006. This document presumes expiry of transitional provisions, and in any case compliance with HSNO and ACVM legislation will fulfil legal requirements.

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 various target species are available. These complementary guidelines are also available from the NPCA.

## 1.2 Acknowledgements

Thanks to the expert working group involved in the preparation of these guidelines. We acknowledge the contribution of the Department of Conservation, whose documentation provided much of the basis of this document, and the detailed review and commentary provided by Ray Clarey, Grant Crawford, Bill Simmons and other members of the expert working group.

# PART 2. PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY OF SAFE TOXIN USE

Vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs) are designed to kill vertebrates. Vertebrates are creatures with backbones, and that includes humans. The use of these toxins demands the highest duty of care.

Safety is always your first responsibility. Your own safety, that of others working with you, and the public.

Principles of safe and responsible toxin use include:

- Persons handling toxins are fit and proper persons, not alcohol or drug impaired, physically and mentally capable of acting safely and dealing with emergencies.
- Follow label and regulatory requirements. These rules have a purpose, to ensure safe toxin use.
- Have necessary licences and training in place. The people best able to act safely and respond appropriately in emergencies are those that have been trained to do so.
- Apply the precautionary principle. If you are unsure that your actions are safe, assume they are not.
- Prevention is better than cure. Imagine "what if" and take preventative action.
- Be responsible for yourself. Don't just rely on your supervisor to take charge if something goes wrong....they may not be able to.
- If you need help from other staff or emergency services, get it immediately.
- Deadlines, budgets, and bosses do not take priority over safe toxin use.

# PART 3. REGULATION OF VERTEBRATE TOXIC AGENTS

#### 3.1 Relevant Legislation

Vertebrate Toxic Agents (VTAs) are mainly regulated under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO), the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (ACVM), and regulations and transfer notices associated with these Acts. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) administer these respectively.

The HSNO legislation primarily protects the environment, communities and people by preventing and managing the adverse effects of hazardous substances, while the ACVM Act prevents or manages risks associated with the use of agricultural compounds, being;

- Risks to trade in primary produce; and
- Risks to animal welfare; and
- Risks to agricultural security:
- Ensure that the use of agricultural compounds does not result in breaches of domestic food residue standards

Other relevant legislation includes, but is not limited to:

- Land Transport Act 1998, particularly the dangerous goods rule
  <u>http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rules/dangerous-goods-2005-index.html</u>
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992
- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Health Act 1956
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Legislation relating to Conservation Estate and wild animal control.

At all times, pest control operators in control of a VTA must;

- 1. Hold licences or certificates as required (or be under the direct supervision of a licence holder).
- 2. Comply with product label directions.
- 3. Have the relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available.

## 3.2 Using the EPA and MPI Websites

There is extensive information available directly from the controlling authorities. Check their websites, or contact them if you're still not clear.

EPA's website is <u>www.epa.govt.nz.</u> There is a Hazardous Substances option on the home page, and this takes you to extensive resources. One useful resource is the searchable "Approved Hazardous Substances with Controls register", at www<u>.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/controls-search.aspx</u>

Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) website is <u>www.mpi.govt.nz.</u> The relevant menu choice on their new home page is "food safety" but, at the time of updating this VTA guideline, the food safety section was still incomplete and the information portal for the ACVM Group was at <u>http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/acvm/overview/</u>. The register there can be searched on this page <u>https://eatsafe.nzfsa.govt.nz/web/public/acvm-register</u>. Remember that legal conditions of use for hazardous substances are imposed under both HSNO and the ACVM, so when you are sure that you have complied with HSNO legislation, you must also check the conditions set by ACVM group, which are additional to any HSNO requirements and can be found by searching the register. Most requirements will normally also be found on the label.

## 3.3 Classifications of Hazardous Substances

There are nine classifications of hazardous substances. Categorised by their hazardous properties as follows:

- Class 1 Explosiveness
- Class 2 Flammability gases
- Class 3 Flammability liquids
- Class 4 Flammability solids
- Class 5 Oxidising capacity
- Class 6 Toxicity
- Class 7 Radioactive materials (covered under Radiation Protection act)
- Class 8 Corrosiveness
- Class 9 Ecotoxicity

Classifications relevant to most VTAs are (refer HSNO legislation for full list):

- 4.3 substances which in contact with water emit flammable gases
- 6.1A, B, C, D acute toxic
- 6.3A & B skin irritant
- 6.4A eye irritant
- 6.5B sensitisers (dermal)

- 6.5A sensitisers (respiratory)
- 6.6 mutagen
- 6.7 carcinogen
- 6.8 reproductive/developmental
- 6.9 target organ/systemic
- 8.1A corrosive to metals
- 8.2 A, B & C skin corrosive
- 9.1A, B & C, aquatic ecotoxicity
- 9.2A, B & C, soil ecotoxicity
- 9.3A & B, terrestrial vertebrate ecotoxicity
- 9.4A, B & C, terrestrial invertebrate ecotoxicity

#### 3.4 Packing Groups

In order to match the level of hazard of a substance, four levels of packaging containment are specified. Three of these are equivalent to United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNRTDG). Packing Groups level I-III. The fourth level has lesser performance requirements for small packages and lower hazard substance. It is derived from UNRTDG criteria for Dangerous Goods packed in Limited Quantities (DGLQ) and is consistent with requirements of the land transport rule: Dangerous Goods 2005.

The formal descriptions are:

- Level 1: Schedule 1 Equivalent to Packing Group 1 (PGI)
- Level 2: Schedule 2 Equivalent to Packing Group 2 (PGII)
- Level 3: Schedule 3 Equivalent to Packing Group 3 (PGIII)

Level 4: Schedule 4 Equivalent to Packing Group 4 (UNDGLQ)

Packing Groups are important in deciding how much care is required to move a VTA.

The relationships between Class 6.1 toxins and packing groups are:

- 6.1A PGI
- 6.1B PGII
- 6.1C PGIII

#### 3.5 Bait Colour

Baits used for vertebrate pest control must be coloured blue or green, except for control of pest birds where baits have no specified colour requirement.

## 3.6 Person in Charge

The Person in Charge is in control of the place where hazardous substances are present. They could be the owner, lessee, sub-lessee or occupier of the place, location or depot. In effect the person who is in control or possession of the relevant part of the site. The role is similar to the person in control of a workplace under the health and safety legislation, although the HSNO legislation is not confined to the workplace. In a small workplace the Person in Charge could be the manager. In a larger operation with multiple locations and activities several people could be designated Persons in Charge. The Person in Charge must have a good understanding of the legislation and the workplace, and it is preferable they are present at the place but this is not essential.

The Person in Charge is responsible for ensuring the hazardous substances under their control are correctly managed and the environment and health and safety of people are not adversely affected. The specific requirements are detailed throughout the hazardous substances regulations. The Person in Charge must ensure the specified controls are in place and are being followed, for example:

- • Hazardous substance locations are established
- • A Location Test Certificate is obtained where needed
- • Hazardous atmosphere zones are established and sources of ignition are managed
- • Incompatible substances are segregated
- • Approved Handlers are appointed for the substances they handle

For further information, EPA has published an online Quick Guide for Persons in Charge at <a href="http://www.epa.govt.nz/hazardous-substances/using-storing/key-req/Pages/Person-in-charge.aspx">http://www.epa.govt.nz/hazardous-substances/using-storing/key-req/Pages/Person-in-charge.aspx</a>

# PART 4. OPERATOR LICENSING

#### 4.1 Dangerous Goods Endorsement (DG) for Driver Licence

You must hold a DG endorsement when:

- 1. Receiving or transporting any quantity of VTAs if you are not an Approved Handler (unless you are not otherwise required to be an approved handler, e.g. brodifacoum baits).
- 2. Transporting larger quantities of VTAs, as follows:
  - Packing Group I. More than 5 kg solids, or 5 litres liquid.
  - Packing Group II. More than 50 kg solids, or 50 litres liquid.
  - Packing Group III. More than 250 kg solids, or 250 litres liquid.

There is an option for Approved handlers to carry larger quantities of VTA's without a DG endorsement by completing a Transport Course, thereby obtaining an exemption on their test certificate<sup>1</sup>.

## 4.2 Approved Handler Certificate

Vertebrate Toxic Agents and Fumigants requiring an Approved Handlers Certificate.

- sodium fluoroacetate (1080)
- sodium cyanide
- potassium cyanide
- phosphorus
- 3-chloro-p-toluidine hydrochloride (also known as DRC1339 or "Starlicide")
- chloropicrin
- pindone liquid concentrate
- Magtoxin (for more than 3 kg)
- Rotenone
- Microencapsulated zinc phosphide (MZP)
- Para-aminopropriophenone (PAPP)
- Encapsulated sodium nitrite (ESN)
- Alpha-chloralose solid for making baits
- Bromadialone liquid bait
- Magnesium phosphide and aluminium phosphide- if you have more than 3 kg of pellets

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the time of writing this course was not yet available. Please check with LTNZ directly.

## 4.3 Controlled Substances Licence

Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act, certain substances can only be possessed by people who have a Controlled Substances Licence. This Licence ensures that high risk substances are only possessed by fit and proper persons, much like a firearms licence does. Controlled Substances Licences are issued by Test Certifiers who are also approved to issue Approved Handlers Certificates.

The Licence holders must meet a number of conditions, which are explained fully in EPA's guide to applying for a controlled substances license <u>http://www.epa.govt.nz/hazardous-</u><u>substances/certifications/csl/Pages/apply-csl.aspx</u>. The prerequisites are that the applicant:

- is 17 years of age or over
- requires the substance for their work (paid or voluntary)
- is a fit and proper person
- is an Approved Handler

Once a Licence is approved, the Licence holder must have in their possession a Controlled Substances Licence Card, which records their personal details including an image, the substances they are authorised to possess, and be produced upon demand by an enforcement officer or supplier.

Test Certifiers also issue Controlled Substance Licences on behalf of the Ministry of Primary Industries where they have set a licensing condition as part of the process for registering a trade name product. An Approved Handler Certificate is generally a pre-requisite for a Controlled Substance Licence. An exception is where you are handling pindone pellets or pre-mixed carrot baits for aerial or ground distribution. In this case you require a CSL, but do not need to be an Approved Handler.

Substances requiring a Controlled Substance Licence are<sup>2</sup>:

- Any 1080 product
- Any Cyanide Product
- DRC 1339
- Magnesium phosphide and aluminium phosphide- if you have more than 3kg of pellets
- Chloropicrin
- Phosphorus
- Pindone soluble concentrate 34 g/l (required under ACVM)
- PAPP
- MZP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>http://www.epa.govt.nz/hazardous-substances/certifications/csl/Pages/apply-csl.aspx</u>

A CSL is not required to receive product from carriers, but receivers do need to be Approved Handlers.

#### 4.4 Working under Supervision

A person who does not hold the required Approved Handler Certificate or Controlled Substance Licence may work under the direct supervision of a properly certified person when:

- The person is physically and mentally suitable to carry out the work.
- The supervisor is available at all times to provide assistance to the person by being physically present (i.e. within sight and earshot).
- The person has received guidance on how to use the VTA, and a health and safety briefing from an Approved Handler.

# PART 5. TRANSPORT

## 5.1 Limits for Transportation by Land

Requirements for transporting VTAs are determined by the Classification, Packing Group, and the quantity being transported<sup>3</sup>.

The Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005 (Rule 45001/1), published by the Land Transport Safety Authority is <u>http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rules/dangerous-goods-2005-index.html</u> . or from Whitcoulls and Government bookshops. This is an authoritative summary of transport requirements.

## 5.2 General Transport Standards for Smaller Quantities

General Transport Standards can be followed for smaller quantities, as follows:

- Packing Group I. Less than 5 kg solids, or 5 litres liquid.
- Packing Group II. Less than 50 kg solids, or 50 litres liquid.
- Packing Group III. Less than 250 kg solids, or 250 litres liquid.
- Packing Group IV. Any quantity.

The operator must be either an Approved Handler, or have a Dangerous Goods Endorsement (DG) on their drivers licence.

Note that some packing group classifications have changed. For example, 0.15% 1080 pellets are now PG II, so only 50 kg can be transported under General Transport Standards (previously 250 kg). 0.08% 1080 pellets are still packing group III and 250kg may be transported under General Transport Standards.

#### 5.2.1 General Transport Standards

General Transport Standards are:

- Packaging is appropriate and specifically designed for the nature and quantity of the product.
- There is nothing on the vehicle that could damage the packaging in which the VTA is contained.
- Lids of drums and bottles are checked and secured for handling, and packaging of VTA is inspected for holes and rips.
- The VTA is held securely on the vehicle.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Quantity transported refers to the total quantity of product, NOT just the active ingredient.

- Packages with VTA must be segregated from other hazardous substances with which they may react dangerously.
- Articles of food and drink are kept away from the VTA.
- The driver is supplied with a map or route to the site where the VTA is to be delivered (if required) and enough time is allowed for travel at safe speeds.
- Areas of high population or traffic density are by-passed.
- If a road vehicle transporting hazardous substances is to be parked for longer than 18 hours, it should be parked in a depot and securely locked or attended to at all times.
- Vehicles carry equipment to deal with small spillage up to 100 kg (broom, shovel, spare container, protective clothing).
- An Emergency Response Plan<sup>4</sup> is required for quantities greater than (check SDS for your specific product):
- 100kg or litres of 1080, cyanide paste or micro-encapsulated paste, pindone liquid concentrate, DRC1339, phosphorus.
- 1000kg or litres of alphachloralose, flocoumafen.
- 10,000kg or litres of brodificoum, bromadiolone, coumatetralyl, cholecalciferol, diphacinone, pindone pellets.
- A handbook is available for a fee from Standards New Zealand: *Dangerous Goods Initial Emergency Response Guide* at <u>www.standards.co.nz</u>

#### 5.2.2 Additional Standards by Car or Truck

- When using a transport company, advise them of the product they are transporting.
- Emergency Response Information (e.g. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or a Dangerous Goods Declaration) has been placed in the internal compartment of the driver's door. This task must be completed for each truckload. The VTA is transported in a covered vehicle or trailer. A handbook is available for a fee from Standards New Zealand "Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide" at <u>www.standards.co.nz</u>
- The VTA shall NOT be kept in driver's cabin.
- Contaminated protective clothing shall NOT be worn inside driver's cabin.

#### 5.2.3 Breakdowns

When a vehicle transporting hazardous substances breaks down, the driver should follow label instructions and ensure:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Note: these figures relate to the amount of bait not the active ingredient. Refer to Emergency Response section for the requirements of the plans

- Place four hazard warning triangles (recommended for road vehicles), one on each corner of the vehicle.
- Turn on hazard warning lights (road vehicle only).
- Remain with the vehicle.
- If possible, move the vehicle so that it does not create a hazard.
- Call for assistance (use a bystander if necessary).

#### 5.2.4 Additional Standards by Motorbike and ATV

• A tarpaulin is used in wet conditions to cover packages containing VTA.

#### 5.2.5 Additional Standards by Foot

- All packages must have the label intact except pre-bagged bait, which must be clearly marked to identify contents, and be carried in a backpack with the VTA label securely attached to the outside of the backpack and SDS readily available.
- When sacks or backpacks are used, a plastic liner is placed inside them.
- All equipment used to handle, dispense or carry (e.g., bait station, back packs etc) must be fit for purpose and be free of defects (e.g., no rips, tears, holes or cracks).

#### 5.3 Transport Standards for Larger Quantities

Additional requirements apply for transporting larger quantities, as follows:

- Packing Group I. More than 5 kg solids, or 5 litres liquid.
- Packing Group II. More than 50 kg solids, or 50 litres liquid.
- Packing Group III. More than 250 kg solids, or 250 litres liquid.
- Packing Group IV. General Transport Standards can be followed.

The driver must have a Dangerous Goods Endorsement (DG) on their licence (but does not need to be an Approved Handler).

Drivers with a DG endorsement have been trained to the required standards, and these are not repeated here.

The Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005 (Rule 45001/1), published by the Land Transport Safety Authority is available from Whitcoulls and Government bookshops. This is an authoritative summary of transport requirements.

# PART 6. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

## 6.1 When is an Emergency Response Plan Required?

For smaller quantities of VTAs, label instructions and the SDS provide the emergency response procedures.

When transporting or storing larger quantities, a separate emergency management plan is required. The limits are<sup>5</sup> (check your specific product SDS):

- 100 kg or litres of 1080, cyanide paste or micro-encapsulated paste, pindone liquid concentrate, DRC1339, phosphorus, alphachloralose solid, MZP, rotenone, ESN, Aluminium or magnesium phoshide, PAPP paste A, .
- 1000 kg or litres of alphachloralose, flocoumafen, alphachloralose seeds and paste, cholecalciferol (no possums), sodium nitrite bait, PAPP ready to use bait and paste B.
- 10,000 kg or litres of brodifacoum, bromadialone, coumatetralyl, cholecalciferol, diphacinone, pindone bait.

## 6.2 Contents of an Emergency Response Plan

The emergency response plan may be built into another plan, e.g. the Health & Safety plan for the storage facility.

For each identified emergency scenario, the emergency management plan must:

- 1. Describe the actions to be taken to:
  - Warn people at the location, and in surrounding areas that may be adversely affected, that an emergency has occurred.
  - Advise these people on the actions they should take to protect themselves
  - Help or treat any person injured as a result of the emergency
  - Manage the emergency so that any adverse effects are in the first instance, restricted to the area initially affected, then reduced in severity as soon as practicable and if possible eliminated.
  - Re-establish controls on any remaining substance.
- 2. Identify every person with responsibilities for undertaking the actions described in 1. above, and provide information including:
  - How to contact the person.
  - Any skills which the person is required to have.
  - The actions that person is expected to take.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Note: these figures relate to the amount of bait, not the active ingredient.

- 3. Specify:
  - How to obtain information about the hazardous properties of, and means of controlling, the substance(s) which may be involved.
  - Actions to be taken to contact any emergency service provider.
  - The purpose and location of each item of equipment or material to be used to manage the incident.
  - How to decide which actions to take.
  - The sequence in which actions should be taken.
- 4. Show how specific hazards, if relevant, have been taken into account e.g.
  - For fire, specify the design and installation of fire extinguishers and any additional firefighting equipment, material and systems provided.
  - Availability of equipment, materials and people.

#### 6.3 Availability of Equipment, Materials and People

Where items of equipment, materials or responsible (trained) people are described in the plan these must either:

- Be present at the location, or
- Be available to reach the location within the times specified in the plan, or
- (in the case of trained personnel) be available to provide specified advice or information within a time specified in the plan.

#### 6.4 Plan Must be Available

The information in the plan is to be available to every person designated as responsible to execute the plan or a specific part of it, and to every emergency service provider identified in it. In the context of these requirements a person may be either:

- A specific individual, or
- A specified role in the organisation, or
- A specified organisation providing the particular function.

## 6.5 Testing Emergency Response Plans

Each emergency plan must be tested either:

- Every 12 months, or
- Within three months of any change to the personnel, procedures or actions specified in the plan.

The test must demonstrate that each procedure in the plan is workable and effective. The results of the test must be documented and retained for at least 2 years.

# PART 7. TRACKING

#### 7.1 Tracking

Tracking is mandatory for VTAs which require an approved handler (any 6.1A, B, C product). An exception is DRC1339 (a 6.1C product), for which tracking is not required (Check label and SDS for your product).

- Each approved handler must use a Hazardous Substance Tracking Sheet for VTAs under their control and retain this record for 3 years after all VTAs on the sheet have left their control.
- The Hazardous Substance Tracking Sheet must be filled out every time a VTA is received, stored, used, transferred or disposed of.
- The tracking sheet must be kept in close proximity to, but not inside the hazardous substance store.

The Hazardous Substance Tracking Sheet must specify:

- The name of the approved handler who is in control of the tracked substance, including the position of the person within his or her organization.
- The physical address of the place of work of that person.
- The date on which the persons test certificate as an approved handler must be renewed.
- The hazard classifications of, and each phase of the lifecycle of, those hazardous substances for which that person has a test certificate.
- The identification of the tracked substance.
- The total amount of the tracked substance.
- The exact location of the tracked substance.
- If a tracked substance is transferred to another place:
  - The identification and amount of the substance transferred.
  - The address of the place, the identity of the approved handler who will be in control of the substance at that place, and the position of that approved handler within his or her organization.
  - The date on which the transfer occurred.
- If a tracked substance has been disposed of:
  - The manner of disposal.
  - The date on which the disposal occurred.
  - The amount of the substance disposed of.
  - The location of the place where the substance was disposed of.

## 7.2 Record of Use

Records of use are generally required whenever VTAs are applied in a place where members of the public may lawfully be present, or where the substance might leave the place via air or water<sup>6</sup>. The record must be kept for at least 3 years, and include:

- The name of the substance.
- The date and time of each application or discharge of the substance.
- The classification or classifications of the substance.
- The amount of the substance applied or discharged.
- The location where the substance was applied or discharged.
- The name of the user of the substance and the user's address.

These requirements can be readily met by ensuring the post-operational report specifies the required matters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Applies to class 6.1A, 6.1B, 6.1C, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.8A, 6.9A, 8.2A, or 8.2B substances. Brodifacoum for instance, is not included in this list

## PART 8. PERMISSIONS AND NOTIFICATION

Before using VTAs it's important that you communicate with people who could be affected by their use. How you communicate will depend on the VTA and application method you use and its potential effects. There are specific communication requirements for aerial application of 1080. These are set out in the Communication guideline for aerial 1080 application that is available on the EPA website – <u>www.epa.govt.nz</u>. This guideline is useful for communications for other VTAs.

## 8.1 Mapping the Operation Boundary

A clear and unambiguous definition of the intended area of poisoning is required for any approval or notification process. This will normally be communicated in the form of a map, and ensures boundaries are:

- Clearly identified, including exclusion zones and sensitive areas.
- Captured digitally.
- Confirmed with adjoining landowners.
- Communicated to operators.

Your map(s) should show the following as a minimum:

- Map number and series (e.g. T17 NZMS260). 1:50,000 is the preferred scale.
- The external boundary of the treatment area or those treatment blocks included in this operation (shading along the inside boundary is recommended where there is potential for confusion).
- Legal property boundaries.
- Name and financial year of operation.
- Land tenure and adjacent owners, including leased land.
- Any areas excluded from the treatment area (such as around public water supplies, pa sites).
- Location of any warning signs and public information signs.
- Any water catchments or bodies of water (include rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, coastal marine areas).
- Recreational facilities (tracks, huts, road ends, roads, picnic sites).
- Date map prepared.

Prior to ground-based operation, the operator has received a copy of the base map, and has been briefed regarding the location of sensitive boundaries and exclusion areas.

Prior to aerial operation, the aerial contractor has:

- Received a digital copy of the treatment boundary and exclusion zones, and uploaded these to the on-board GPS system prior to applying VTA.
- Flown the boundaries of the treatment area and exclusion zones with the operation controller (or a person nominated by them) to confirm that the electronic boundary is correct.

- Been briefed regarding the location of sensitive boundaries and exclusion areas, and outlines his/her sowing plan to ensure that these boundaries will not be breached.
- Received copies of all relevant consents and permissions, and a hard copy of the base map.

## 8.2 EPA Permission

Permission from EPA is required (HSNO Act 95A) whenever a VTA is proposed to be applied to any Department of Conservation managed land. However, EPA has delegated permission functions to DoC, so when you have the necessary DoC permissions you do not need to approach EPA.

Permission is required (HSNO Act 95A) whenever a specified VTA is proposed to be applied to any catchment area from which water is drawn for human consumption, or any other place where a risk to public health may be created by application of the VTA. (for instance, any place to which the public normally has access). However, EPA has delegated permission functions to Ministry of Health, so when you have the necessary Ministry of Health permissions you do not need to approach EPA.

Applicable VTAs are:

- 1080
- Any cyanide product
- Any yellow phosphorus product
- 3-chloro-p-toluidine hydrochloride (DRC1339)
- MZP

If you intend to use sodium nitrite to control pigs on land that is not managed by DOC you will need a permission from EPA. (search their website "vta permissions")

#### 8.3 Department of Conservation Permission

Any application of VTAs on Department of Conservation land requires the Department's permission, regardless of whether permission would be required under HSNO Act 95A. As Department of Conservation land is public, MOH permission may also be required.

The Department of Conservation has extensive procedures in place for vertebrate pest control operations. These apply to external contractors, as well as Department staff.

Contact your nearest Department of Conservation office, they will guide you through the process.

#### 8.4 Ministry of Health Permission

If Ministry of Health permission is required (refer section 7.2 above) use the forms specified by your local MoH, and allow at least 3 weeks to process your application. Medical Officers of Health and Health Protection Officers are the first point of contact for this process.

If you are unsure whether there may be a risk to public health, ask the Medical Officer of Health whether he or she requires you to obtain their permission.

## 8.5 Local Authority Approval

Approval from Local Authorities (LAs) is required when proposing to apply a VTA on any land managed by them. The general requirement for LA authority prior to aerial baiting no longer exists. However, it is recommended that LAs are notified of such operations, and this will in fact often be a condition of MoH permissions.

Paper roads are public lands vested in local authorities. Ensure you have their approval to apply toxin on paper roads, and also check whether the MOH considers there is a risk to public health on paper roads.

#### 8.6 Resource Consent

Most regional councils require you to obtain a non-notified resource consent for any aerial application of VTAs. Specific requirements vary, contact your regional council for details.

## 8.7 Occupier Consent

Obtain written approval (signature) from all occupiers on whose land you intend to apply a VTA. You may not apply VTAs without occupier consent unless you are properly authorised to do so under statutory enforcement provisions.

As part of a non-notified resource consent process, you may also need to get a separate consent form signed by occupiers.

## 8.8 Tangata Whenua

Consult with local iwi regarding proposed application of VTAs to public lands. Be willing to negotiate amendments to your proposal during the consultation process.

The MoH may specify other interest groups you are required to consult.

## 8.9 Notification

Where public normally have access to a place, notify applicable interest groups. Such groups may include tramping clubs, hunting groups etc. As part of the permission process, DOC and/or MOH may specify additional interest groups they require you to notify or consult with.

Adjoining landowners should be notified in all cases.

In the case of aerial bait application you must also:

- Notify local Police (unless you are the occupier of the land).
- Publish Public Notification in local newspapers.

Information should include:

- Operation name.
- A map of the boundaries of the area where you are planning to apply VTA.
- The method of applying the bait.
- The name of the VTA and how the bait is presented (e.g. 1080, cereal pollard bait)
- The date of intended VTA application.
- Identification of risks associated with the VTA and the operation and measures available to avoid or mitigate these risks.
- Purpose of the operation.
- Any condition requirements of permission from MOH or consenting authority
- Any relevant information presented during the consultation phase of the operation.
- Details on treatment in case of poisoning or National Poisons Centre phone number.
- Contact name and phone number to call for further information.

#### 8.10 Public Notice Requirements

For proposed aerial operations, public notice (newspapers) will specify:

- The date on which, or as soon as practicable after which, it is intended to apply the VTA
- The name, nature and method of application of the VTA
- A clear description, by reference to its boundaries (including districts, roads and other commonly known features) of the land to which the VTA is to be applied, and contain sufficient information to enable the reader, without reference to other information, to understand the general nature of the application and whether it will affect him or her.
- The location(s) where members of the public may view maps of the area over which the VTA will be applied, and the times at which such maps may be viewed.
- The name, address and phone number of the person or body responsible for the application of the VTA
- Other key facts, especially the communication and management of risks.

Timing of Public Notices:

- Shall be published a sufficient period prior to (but not more than 2 months) before the intended date of application of the VTA.
- Becomes invalid if the VTA has not been applied to the land within two (2) months after the date on which the notice is published in the newspaper, and
- Re-publish Public Notice every two (2) months until operation is completed. Second and subsequent Public Notices need to refer that it is an extension of the existing Public Notice, or
- Timing as specified in Consent conditions.

## PART 9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (particularly sections 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 23, 25) applies.

Ensure:

- All operators are familiar with and follow label instructions when using VTAs.
- Health and Safety management plans, contracts and work plans comply with regulatory requirements (particularly HSNO and ACVM).
- All operators are familiar with and work in accordance with the operational Health and Safety management plan.
- All operators are familiar with hazard controls and first aid procedures.
- Adequate and functioning emergency communication equipment is used or an emergency communication system (e.g. radio contact schedule) is in place.
- Washing facilities are always available e.g. soap, paper towels, nailbrush, and a supply of clean water.
- Volunteers must be managed as if they are paid employees.
- Employees must be given opportunities to participate in the design and management of the organization they work for.
- All work related injuries, illnesses and near misses must be recorded.
- Employers must provide and ensure the use of protective clothing and equipment.
- Employees may refuse to carry out work if they believe it is likely to cause them serious harm.

# PART 10. LABELLING STANDARDS

- When handling VTAs have the manufacturers label and safety data sheet (SDS) available at all times.
- VTAs must not be stored in a container with a label showing the brand, statement or picture of any food, drink, or medicine for internal use, or that is likely to lead any person to believe that the contents of the container are intended for human consumption.
- All packages must have the label intact except pre-bagged bait, which must be clearly marked to identify contents, and be carried with the VTA label securely attached to the outside of the backpack and SDS readily available.

## PART 11. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

It is the responsibility of the Person in Charge to ensure that the correct PPE is available, maintained and properly used.

## 11.1 Personal Protective Equipment to be Used

Consult Label Directions for PPE to be used.

#### 11.2 Care, Maintenance and Storage of Personal Protective Equipment

- All PPE, including footwear is cleaned before and after use.
- Where PPE is being used, have manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and use (where these exist) for PPE available at all times.
- PPE is stored clean and dry and protected from exposure to workplace contaminants when not in use.
- Filters are stored in sealed containers.
- Contaminated clothing is securely contained and labelled for either:
  - Commercial laundering wherever practical after being labelled and securely contained.
  - Separate washing, either on-site or elsewhere after being securely bagged and/or contained and put directly into a washing machine.
  - Disposal, through the use of disposable versions of PPE, which do not require laundering.

# PART 12. STORAGE OF VTAS

#### 12.1 Storage

General storage standards.

- An Emergency Response Plan is required for larger quantities (refer label).
- Required placarding is displayed on the building.
- All packages containing VTA have the legally prescribed label intact.
- When not being used, containers of VTA are to be stored in a locked cupboard, room or storage area.
- No article of food or drink is to be kept in the cupboard, room or storage area.
- No child or unauthorised person is to have access to the cupboard, room or storage area.
- Any container holding any VTA shall not be left open unless the container is being filled or the VTA in the container is being used.
- A facility must be test certified as a hazardous substance location to store more than 3 kg of magnesium phosphide. The Enforcement Agency (Department of Labour must be notified, and it is a good idea to also notify the local Fire Service.) Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. See the section on location test certificates on the Work Safe website <a href="http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/notifications-forms/hsno-activities-certification-qualifications-licensing/certification-of-sites/location-test-certificates.">http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/notifications-forms/hsno-activities-certification-qualifications-licensing/certification-of-sites/location-test-certificates.</a>

There shall be a clear indication to any person what is in the store what the store contains. The HSNO (Identification) Regulations include specific requirements for signs according to the hazard classification of the substance and the amount in the store. Signs on the store shall be clearly visible from all lines of approach.

Pictograms can be used as a priority identifier to indicate the hazard.

For Toxic (Class 6) substances the pictogram is:



For Ecotoxic (Class 9) substances the pictogram is:



#### 12.2 Standards for Buildings

The purpose of the Building Act 1991 and Building Regulations 1992 Act is to make buildings safe. Its application to animal pest control is to ensure that building standards are consistent with the safe storage and processing of hazardous substances. A subsidiary objective is to ensure that buildings used for the storage and processing of hazardous substances do not pose a risk. It applies to all buildings constructed or modified since 15 February 1992. The Act is administered principally by territorial local authorities.

Operators must ensure buildings used for the preparation, handling and storage of hazardous substances have:

- Restrictions to prevent unauthorised access
- Safeguards to prevent hazardous substances from getting into sewers and drains
- Means for the harmless escape of pressure if there is a risk of explosion
- Protection for ignition sources, if flammable or explosive goods are stored
- Adequate means of ventilation
- Impervious and easily cleaned surface finishes
- Signs for escape routes.

The Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations 1992 prescribe the circumstances in which an evacuation scheme must be prepared, the contents of a draft scheme, and the criteria for approval by the Fire Service. An approved scheme must be implemented.

Under the Fire Service Act 1975 Fire Service has power to deal with the preparation, handling and storage of hazardous substances and hazardous substance incidents.

#### Operators must:

- Have approved evacuation schemes for buildings used for the storage or processing of hazardous substances.
- Contact the Fire Service if leakage, spill or other hazardous incident occurs, allow it access, provide assistance and comply with its directions.

- Permit the Fire Service with access to the site to plan hazardous substance emergency response.
- Assist the Fire Service to investigate the incident.

The Fire Service may:

- Require the owner of a building used wholly or partly for the storage and processing of hazardous substances to prepare and submit, for approval, an evacuation scheme.
- Undertake pre-incident planning.
- Deal with hazardous substances emergencies.
- Carry out post-incident investigation.

#### 12.3 Temporary Storage

A temporary storage site is where VTAs are held for periods longer than 24 hours without supervision, for example during a large application task. Temporary storage sites shall comply with all the requirements of a permanent storage site.

Note: A transit depot is a permanent place designed to hold hazardous substances in unopened containers while they are in transit. It excludes any place where the substances are held for sale or supply. Substances can be held in a transit depot for no more than 3 days.

# PART 13. HANDLING OF VTAS

Always follow Label instructions.

#### 13.1 Pre-Operational

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- Potential hazards, spillage and accident procedures are discussed before commencing the work.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- When a forklift is used for loading or unloading VTA, the driver is a licenced forklift operator.
- Lids of drums and bottles are checked and secure for handling, and VTA packaging are inspected for holes and rips.
- Approved Handlers receiving packaged VTAs must check details are correct on label.
- Protective clothing and equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.

## 13.2 Using Liquid Concentrates

When using liquid 1080 or Pindone, follow label instructions and ensure:

- Bait preparation techniques (mixing/diluting/spraying/injecting/etc) and potential hazards are discussed with staff before commencing the work.
- Packages with VTA must be clearly marked with the correct label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is with the VTA and available at all times.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- Protective clothing and equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- Suitable antidote, if any, is immediately available and within use-by date.
- Washing facilities are immediately available e.g., soap, paper towels, nail brush and a clean supply of water.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.

## 13.3 Pre-Bagging Bait

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- Bait preparation, sampling techniques and potential hazards are discussed with staff before commencing the work.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- VTA is handled on sites where spillage cannot enter waterways, wells or contaminate the environment. Consider using a tarpaulin floor.
- Where toxic bait is pre-bagged:
  - Pre-bagging must occur in a dry and sheltered but ventilated area.
  - Bags must be clearly marked to identify contents
  - Bags must be carried in a backpack with the VTA label securely attached to the outside of the backpack and the SDS readily available.
- Protective equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- Suitable antidote, if any, is immediately available and within use-by date.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.
- All equipment used to handle, dispense or carry VTAs (e.g. bait station, back packs) must be fit for purpose and be free of defects (i.e., no rips, tears, holes or cracks).

## 13.4 Bait Handling in the Field

#### 13.4.1 Bait stations and Ground Based Application

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- Bait application techniques (placing and removing) and potential hazards are discussed with staff before commencing the work.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- Where toxic bait is pre-bagged:
  - Bags must be clearly marked to identify contents.
  - Bags must be carried in a backpack (with plastic liners inside them) with the VTA label securely attached to the outside of the backpack and the SDS readily available.
- Food and drink are kept away from the VTA.
- Protective clothing and equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.

- Antidote, if any, is immediately available and within use-by date.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.
- All equipment used to handle, dispense or carry VTAs (e.g., bait station, back packs) must be fit for purpose and be free of defects (i.e., no rips, tears, holes or cracks).
- A reliable bait recovery system is in place where bait is recovered from the field (e.g. bait stations). This may include some combination of numbering, mapping GPS, flag tape.

#### 13.4.2 Aerial Application

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- Potential hazards are discussed with staff before commencing the work.
- The boundaries of the loading site are marked and signs are erected.
- For any aerial operation lasting longer than one day, the loading site and any storage area must be fenced so that people do not inadvertently enter the site and stock cannot gain access to the area.
- Staff involved in loading the bucket or hopper near or beneath the aircraft wears white overalls, white gum boots, respirators, rubber gloves, a high visibility safety helmet with chinstrap (type 410), hearing and eye protection.
- Staff involved in loading the bucket or hopper away from the aircraft wears white overalls, white gumboots, dusk masks, rubber, gloves and eye protection.
- Protective clothing and equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- Suitable antidote, if any, is immediately available and within use-by date.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.
- All equipment used to handle, dispense or carry VTAs (e.g., bucket or hopper, back packs) must be fit for purpose and be free of defects (i.e., no rips, tears, holes or cracks).

#### 13.5 Post Operational

#### 13.5.1 Clean-up

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- Clean-up techniques and potential hazards are discussed with staff before commencing work.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.

- Contaminated safety equipment, vehicles and any other equipment that has been in contact with VTA are thoroughly washed at a VTAs location where runoff is unlikely to enter any watercourse or water bodies.
- Surplus VTA (meaning fresh bait that is still OK for use) should be stored in its original packaging with manufacturers label attached and SDS available.
- Surplus VTA (meaning fresh bait that is still OK for use) shall only be passed on or sold to individuals or organisations that are authorised users, in their original packaging, manufacturers label attached and SDS available.
- Any contaminated equipment to be refilled must be triple rinsed.
- No VTA containers shall be re-used for any other purpose.
- Washing facilities are immediately available e.g. soap, paper towels, nailbrush, and a supply of clean water.
- Suitable antidote, if any, is immediately available and within use-by date.
- All equipment used to handle, dispense or carry VTAs (e.g., bait station, back packs) must be fit for purpose and be free of defects (i.e., no rips, tears, holes or cracks).
- Protective clothing and equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.
- Aircraft, aircraft hopper or helicopter bucket are thoroughly washed before leaving the site and under no circumstances is the aircraft allowed to leave the site before decontamination is completed.
- Ensure that decontamination of the aircraft and associated equipment is specified in the contract with the aircraft company.

#### 13.6 Disposal

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- Disposal techniques and potential hazards are discussed with staff before commencing the work.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- Regional Council and Local Authority disposal requirements for VTAs, containers, equipment, carcasses are met (e.g. discharge consent to air/water).
- Protective clothing and equipment is removed and hands/arms/face thoroughly washed before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- No person who is not lawfully assisting in that operation may remain in the vicinity of the operation.
- Redundant/old (past expiry date)/used VTA scheduled for disposal must be:

- securely contained with the manufacturers label and SDS, and
- taken to a disposal facility approved by a local authority, and
- delivered to disposal personnel who are approved handlers (where required under HSNO), OR
- Where transport to disposal facility impractical/unsafe follow the label regarding disposal.
- Contaminated bags, redundant packaging or equipment e.g., securely contained paper bags
  - securely contained with the manufacturers label and SDS, and
  - · taken to a disposal facility approved by a local authority, and
  - delivered to disposal personnel who are approved handlers (where required under HSNO), OR
- Where transport to disposal facility unpractical/unsafe follow the label regarding disposal of VTA packaging.
- A waste disposal contractor is engaged to dispose of rinse water or rinse water is channelled into a hole especially dug for this purpose (i.e. soak away) at least 50 metres away from any watercourse/water body.

# PART 14. ACCIDENTS, LOSS, SPILLAGE

Always follow Label instructions.

#### 14.1 General Precautions

Follow label instructions and ensure:

- All operators are briefed on emergency procedures, hazard controls and first aid procedures.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- All operators are familiar with health and safety incident reporting procedures.
- All operators are familiar with reporting procedures in case of any lost or misplaced VTAs.
- Incidents and accidents are reported.
- Protective clothing, first aid supplies, and emergency service phone numbers are readily available.
- Suitable antidote, if any, is immediately available and within use-by date.
- All practicable steps are taken to prevent or minimise any hazard arising from such an incident.

## 14.2 Misapplied, Spilt or Lost VTAs

If any Vertebrate Toxic Agents are applied other than in the intended application area, or is lost or spilt, the person who is in possession of the substance at the time it was misapplied, lost or spilt must report the nature and quantity of the substance within 24 hours of the substance being misapplied, lost, or spilt to:

- All consent providers; and
- In addition for all cyanide, phosphorus, DRC 1339, Rotenone and 1080 products,
  - Officer in charge of the nearest police station to which the person has access; and
  - The person on whose behalf the substance is being applied.
  - The enforcement agency (whoever granted a permission).

In case of spillage, in addition to the above, ensure:

- Label directions are followed.
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.
- When required, manufacturer is consulted for advice.
- All practicable steps are made to prevent the spilled substance coming into contact with any person or any other vehicle.
- All practicable steps are made to isolate the spill (e.g. fencing).

- All practicable steps are made to prevent the spilled substance from entering into any sewer, drain or natural waters.
- Emergency Response Plan implemented (if applicable).
- Personal protective equipment is worn per label requirements.

#### 14.3 Poisoning (of persons)

- Read the label for immediate first aid.
- Request medical assistance (dial 111).
- Call National Poisons Centre if required (0800 764766).
- If possible, remove contaminated clothing from the patient, taking care not to contaminate yourself.
- Report to enforcement agency (whoever granted permission).

## FIRST AID GUIDELINE

- S Safety make sure it is safe for you, bystanders and patient.
- R Response Check for response using voice and touch.
- A Airway Check the airway is clear and open. Check in mouth.
- B Breathing "look, listen and feel" for breathing (no more than 10 seconds)
- C Circulation Check for signs of life colour, coughing and movement.
- S Severe bleeding Apply pressure to stem the flow.

# PART 15. WARNING SIGNS

Always follow Label instructions and the SDS.

You must post warning signs at the location where the VTA has been used. Warning signs let people know which VTA has been used, what the hazards are and what to look out for. They are an important communication requirement when using VTAs.

You must put up warning signs at all normal points of entry to the treatment area when you use:

- Cyanide
- 1080
- Phosphorus
- PAPP
- MZP
- DRC1339
- 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. The PHU, EPA or DOC may require extra information on signs through conditions on permissions.

Examples of VTA warning signs are available as templates on the EPA website <u>www.epa.govt.nz</u> search for example warning signs. DOC also has a series of template signs available at <u>http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/run-a-project/our-procedures-and-sops/managing-animal-pests/warning-sign-templates/</u>

#### 15.1 Information on Warning Signs

Warning signs must be written in simple language. Sign information relating substance and hazard needs to be readable from 10 m and the contact details from 2 m, and this must be tested on the public.

All warning signs must have:

- The name of the person or body who is applying the VTA.
- Skull and crossbones
- The name and nature of the VTA (e.g. 1080 paste).
- The colour of the bait.
- The word "POISON"
- The intended date of application.
- Rules to reduce risk.

Warning signs may also need:

- The caution "DO NOT take feral ANIMALS for eating". (not required for cyanide, DRC 1339 or phosphorus baiting).
- A caution about NOT drinking water, if appropriate after consultation with MOH.
- A caution about NOT taking dogs into the area, especially if using 1080.

If the label indicates the product can only be sold to and/or used by a person holding a controlled substances licence then further requirements set by the ACVM are that:

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 state:

- (i) that it is an offence for any person to remove the sign(s) prior to clearance of the area;
- (ii) that it is an offence for any person (other than the applicator) to remove/move baits from the area;
- (iii) warning of potential harm to dogs.

## 15.2 Placement of Signs

Warning signs must be erected at every point where people normally obtain access to the land, before toxic bait is applied.

If the label indicates the product can only be sold to and/or used by a person holding a controlled substances licence then further requirements set by the ACVM are that signs must be posted in prominent places around the perimeter of the treated area, not just access points.

## 15.3 Recovery of Signs

The signs must remain until:

- A period of time specified by the Authority (EPA), or ACVM has elapsed (whichever is the greater, check the label);
- The substance has been retrieved from the place concerned.

# PART 16. FUMIGANTS

Fumigants are considered separately from other VTAs. Fumigants are commonly used in the vertebrate pest control industry for control of rabbits in burrows.

If there is more than 3 kg of the substance under the personal control of an approved handler, then notification, storage and signage requirements apply. You do not require an Approved Handler certificate when you have less than 3kg of the substance under your control.

Notification must be given not less than 24 hours prior to the commencement of fumigation to the nearest Communications Centre of the New Zealand Fire Service if:

- the fumigation is undertaken on, or adjacent to, land that is close to or adjoins a private dwelling, school, playing field or reserve, or any amenity area, or area where the public may lawfully be present; OR
- the risk area may encroach on any such land or area; and
- occupier in charge of the place.

Signage is required on land where members of the public may lawfully be present and signs must be erected at the perimeter of the risk area that:

- are able to be readily seen by a person approaching the risk area; and
- state that fumigation is being carried out; and
- identify the substance being used and state that it is toxic to humans; and
- describe the general type of hazard associated with the substance; and
- if the substance is flammable, describe the precautions necessary to prevent unintended ignition of the substance.

Each sign must:

- Comply with regulation 34(1), (2), and (4), and regulation 35(1), (3), and (5) of the Hazardous Substances (Identification) Regulations 2001, and;
- Be readable from a distance of at least 10 metres; and
- Identify the person in charge of the fumigation and provide sufficient information to enable the person to be contacted during normal business hours; and
- State the day on which the fumigation commenced; and
- State the actions that must be taken in an emergency; and
- Be removed immediately on the completion of fumigation.
- You will need a Location Test Certificate if you are using and/or storing more than 3 kg of flammable fumigants. See the section on location test certificates on the Work Safe

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website <u>http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/notifications-forms/hsno-activities-</u> certification-qualifications-licensing/certification-of-sites/location-test-certificates.

Up to 3 kg may be transported under "tools of trade" without DG (Dangerous Goods endorsement) or placarding.

# PART 17. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR AERIAL APPLICATION

1080, pindone and DRC1339 (hand based application from an aircraft) are the only VTAs generally allowed to be applied by aerial application. Pindone may only be applied aerially by DoC, regional councils or unitary authorities.

DoC may aerially apply brodifacoum on offshore islands, and a COP has also been approved by the ACVM for aerial distribution of brodifacoum into "mainland islands".

This publication does not attempt to provide detailed guidance for aerial application of VTA's. Separate guidelines documents exist and should be consulted, including:

- Aerial 1080 Pest Control Industry Guidelines (publcn # B9) <u>http://npca.org.nz/index.php/b-series-regulatory</u>
- Aerial 1080 Control of Possums & Rabbits: Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Government (publcn # A14) <u>http://npca.org.nz/index.php/a-series-best-practice</u>
- Communications Guideline for Aerial 1080 Operations <u>www.epa.govt.nz/publications/ERMA-1080-guidelines.pdf</u>
- Pest Rooks Monitoring and Control (publcn # A6) <u>http://npca.org.nz/index.php/a-series-best-practice</u>
- Code of Practice: Aerial and Hand Broadcast Application of Pestoff® Rodent Bait 20R for the intended Eradication of Rodents from specified areas of New Zealand. New Zealand Food Safety Authority, Wellington September 2005 (revised 2006).
   www.pestoff.co.nz/pdf/Code%20of%20Practice%2020R.pdf

A code of practice has been prepared the Agricultural Aviation Association (Code of Practice for the Aerial Application of Vertebrate Toxic Agents). The Code is part of the NZAAA (Agricultural Aviation Assoc) Accreditation programme (see <u>www.nzaaa.co.nz</u>) and it is intended to meet or satisfy DoC requirements for the aerial application of VTA. In fact, it is intended to apply to any situation where VTAs are applied by air. Among other things, it requires a contract to be drawn up between the aerial operator and the contractor.

## YOUR NOTES

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## **EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK FORM**

NPCA Publication B2: Vertebrate Toxic Agents: Minimum Requirements for Safe Use and Handling, Best Practice Guidelines, November 2015

Name:	Date:
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:Fax:	

The NPCA welcomes any feedback and comment you might have on this guideline, so we can further improve or develop it. Please quote the page and reference that your comment(s) relates to, provide a short comment and return to:

NPCA, PO Box 11-461, Wellington 6142 Fax: (04) 473 7991 Email: <u>npca@xtra.co.nz</u> **Note**: This form can be downloaded from the website: <u>www.npca.org.nz</u>.

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## EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK FORM (cont)



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