



Risk assessment and method statement

Pest control risk assessment

Pest control: rodents, insects and birds. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY Pest control: rodents, insects and birds		RAMS REFERENCE	
CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THE WORK		PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	
PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	REVISION	DATE

Revision record

Reissue and rebrief when the sequence, the programme, the team or the conditions change. If you would have written it differently had you known, it needs a new revision.

REV	DATE	WHAT CHANGED	BY

THE WORK

The activity, the place and the people

Pre-filled for this kind of work. Make every line specific to this site: this sequence, this access, these people, this weather.

Scope of the activity

What is being done, and what is not included.

MHSWR REGULATION 3(1)

Survey and control of [pest] at [premises], by [proofing / traps / rodenticide baits / insecticide treatment / bird proofing]. Includes follow-up visits every [interval] and removal of baits at the end of the treatment. Fumigation, if needed, by a specialist contractor. Not included: [list any exclusions].

Location and access

Where on site, how people and materials get there, and the restrictions.

Access via [entrance], with keys from [contact]. Areas: [rooms / loft / roof / drains / grounds]. Loft access by [hatch ladder], with boards laid. Roof and high-level work by [MEWP / tower]. Visit times [08:00 to 17:00].

Programme and interfaces

When the work runs, and who else is working nearby.

CDM REGULATION 15(2)

START DATEDURATIONWORKING HOURS

INTERFACES WITH OTHER TRADES

Client contact: [name], for access, keys and who is on site. Occupants told where baits are and the re-entry time after any insect treatment. Children, pets and vulnerable people kept away from treated areas. Specialist fumigation contractor where used.

Documents this RAMS relies on

Product labels, safety data sheets and COSHH assessments. Stewardship certificate for each technician. Bait point and treatment record. Asbestos information for older buildings. Lone working procedure and check-in contacts.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Technicians		A recognised pest management qualification, and for professional anticoagulant rodenticides, a certificate approved under the stewardship regime.	
Supervisor		Experienced technician able to review treatments, records and this RAMS, and act on a missed check-in.	
MEWP operators		IPAF PAL card for the category of machine.	
Ladder users		Trained in safe ladder use and pre-use checks.	
RPE wearers		Face fit tested for tight-fitting masks, and clean shaven where the mask seals.	
Fumigation		A specialist fumigation contractor only, under its own RAMS.	

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METHOD STATEMENT

The sequence of work

The order the team will work in on the day, with the controls built into each stage. If the sequence changes on site, revise the RAMS and brief it again.

STAGE	WHAT IS DONE, AND HOW	CONTROLS AT THIS STAGE	BY
Before the visit	Take the client's report of the problem, check access, lofts, roofs and drains, and ask who is on the premises, including children, pets and anyone vulnerable. Check the asbestos information for older buildings.	Labels and safety data sheets for the likely products; COSHH assessments in place; RAMS agreed with the client.	Contracts manager
Arrival and briefing	Sign in, meet the client contact, confirm the areas to be treated and who must be kept out, and make the first check-in.	Briefing signed against this revision; stewardship certificate and training records checked.	Technician
Survey and inspect	Find the pest, the harbourage and the way in, looking before reaching into any void or bin store and working from boards in lofts.	Torch and mirror before reaching; crawl boards in lofts; gloves and RPE where droppings or dust are present.	Technician
Plan the treatment	Choose the least hazardous way to control the pest: proofing, hygiene and traps first, then a pesticide where it is needed, and agree it with the client.	Product used as the label allows; reasons for using a rodenticide recorded.	Technician
Place baits and traps	Set bait stations and traps at the planned points, secure them, and record each point and the product and quantity used.	Tamper-resistant stations secured; out of reach of children, pets and other animals; bait point record kept.	Technician
Insect treatments	Clear the room of people and pets, cover or remove exposed food, apply the product, and give the occupant the re-entry time in writing.	Gloves, eye protection and RPE to the label; ventilation; no spraying near people, pets or open food.	Technician
Bird work at height	Set the exclusion zone, clear droppings and inactive nests, then fit netting, spikes or wires from the MEWP, tower or protected roof.	Droppings damped and bagged, never pressure washed; FFP3; active nests left unless a licence allows otherwise.	Supervisor
Fumigation interface	Where fumigation is needed, hand the area to the specialist fumigation contractor and keep the team out until it is declared clear.	Specialist's own RAMS and notices; no re-entry until clearance is given.	Contracts manager
Follow-up visits	Check each bait point and trap at the planned interval, search for and remove carcasses, top up or replace bait, and record activity.	Carcasses bagged in gloves; records kept for every visit; treatment reviewed if activity continues.	Technician
Close out and report	Remove baits and traps at the end of the treatment, clean down equipment, give the client the report and proofing advice, and make the final check-in.	All bait points accounted for against the record; waste removed through the agreed route.	Technician

CDM REGULATION 15(2): PLAN, MANAGE AND MONITOR THE WORK

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards, controls and the risk that remains

Each significant hazard rated before and after its controls, as likelihood times severity. The ratings are typical: check them for this site.

	LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY		
	1	2	3	4	5
5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

1 to 4 low
 5 to 12 medium
 15 to 25 high

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Handling rodenticides	Technicians loading bait stations and handling blocks, pastes and grain baits.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Only authorised products, used as the label allows, by technicians who meet the stewardship regime. - Gloves worn for all bait handling; no eating, drinking or smoking until hands are washed. - Baits carried and stored in their original, labelled containers in a locked store.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Supervisor
Baits reaching people and other animals	Children, occupants, pets and wildlife who could reach or eat bait or poisoned rodents.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Baits in secured, tamper-resistant stations, or placed where only the target pest can reach them, as the label requires. - Every bait point recorded and checked at the interval set in the plan; carcasses searched for and removed. - Baits removed at the end of the treatment unless the label and plan allow otherwise.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Technician
Insecticide sprays and dusts	Technicians and occupants, from mist, vapour and dust inhaled or on the skin.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Product and method chosen to suit the pest and the room; gels, baits and traps before sprays where they work. - Room cleared of people, pets and exposed food; label re-entry time given to the occupant in writing. - Gloves, eye protection and RPE as the label and COSHH assessment specify.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Weil's disease from rat urine	Technicians working where rats are active, in voids, drains, bin stores and around water.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Gloves worn; cuts and grazes covered with waterproof dressings before work. - Hands washed before eating, drinking or smoking; breaks taken away from the work area. - Flu-like illness after work in rat areas reported, and the doctor told about the work.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Psittacosis and other disease from droppings	Technicians clearing droppings, nests and dead birds from roofs, lofts and ledges.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Droppings damped down and removed with hand tools into sealed bags. Never pressure washed, which creates contaminated droplets. - RPE with an assigned protection factor of 20, such as FFP3, face fit tested; disposable overalls and gloves. - Sheeting to limit spread; hands washed and overalls bagged before leaving; no one with a weakened immune system on this task.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	Supervisor
Falls in lofts and through ceilings	Technicians baiting and inspecting in lofts, roof spaces and above suspended ceilings.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Crawl boards laid across the joists; nobody steps between joists or onto plasterboard. - Loft hatch ladder secured; lighting set up before work; the hatch guarded while open. - Bait points placed so they can be checked from boarded areas.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Cables, services and insulation in voids	Technicians in lofts and voids with chewed cables, hot pipes and loose fibres.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Rodent damage to cables treated as live; damaged wiring left alone and reported to the client. - Asbestos information checked in older buildings; suspect materials not disturbed. - Long sleeves, gloves and FFP3 RPE where insulation or dust will be disturbed.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Bird work at height	Technicians fitting nets, spikes and wires, and clearing nests on roofs, ledges and canopies.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work planned from a MEWP or tower where possible, operated by IPAF trained operators with a restraint lanyard in a boom. - Roof work only with edge protection; fragile rooflights and sheets covered or kept off. - Exclusion zone below for falling tools, fixings and debris.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor

MHSWR REGULATION 3(6): WITH FIVE OR MORE EMPLOYEES, RECORD THE SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

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RISK ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

More hazards, and those specific to this site

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Ladder work	Technicians reaching hatches, eaves, wasp nests and high bait points.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Ladders only for light work of short duration; checked before use and footed or tied. - Three points of contact; tools and products carried in a bag, not by hand.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Wasp and bee stings	Technicians treating nests, and occupants nearby, including anyone with a sting allergy.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Bee suit, veil and gloves for nest treatments; occupants kept indoors with windows shut. - Technicians asked about known allergies; no nest work at height without a safe working position. - Honey bees referred to a beekeeper rather than treated.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Needles and sharps	Technicians reaching into voids, bin stores, ducts and undergrowth.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- No blind reaching; torch and mirror used to look first. - Needles picked up only with tongs into a sharps box, wearing puncture-resistant gloves. - Wound encouraged to bleed, washed with soap and water, and urgent medical advice sought.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Traps and rodent bites	Technicians setting and clearing traps, and handling live or dead rodents.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Traps set with the setting tool or safety catch; placed in stations or where people and pets cannot reach them. - Rodents and carcasses handled only in gloves, bagged and disposed of through the agreed route.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Drains, sewers and manholes	Technicians inspecting and baiting drains and manholes.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- Baiting and inspection from the surface; no one enters a drain or manhole without a confined space assessment and a trained team. - Open covers guarded; covers lifted with a lifter, not by hand.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Fumigation by others	Technicians, occupants and neighbours near a fumigation by a specialist contractor.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- Fumigation, including gassing of burrows, only by a specialist trained for that fumigant under its own RAMS; this team does not fumigate. - No entry to the area until the fumigator has declared it clear and warning notices are removed.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Lone visits	Technicians working alone in empty buildings, lofts and outbuildings, or meeting hostile occupants.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Lone work agreed in the risk assessment, with check-ins at arrival, at set times and on leaving, and action on a missed one. - Someone told before entering a loft, void or roof; no MEWP or roof work alone. - Technician leaves and reports any visit where they feel threatened.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	Supervisor
Pesticides in the vehicle	Technicians and the public, from spills, theft or fire involving products in the van.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	- Products in a secured, locked and ventilated compartment, separate from the cab, in their original containers. - Spill kit carried; only the quantities needed for the day loaded.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Manual handling	Technicians carrying ladders, sprayers, bait stations and bird proofing materials.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	- Equipment carried in smaller loads; two people for long ladders and heavy rolls of netting. - Kit staged near the work, with sprayers filled where they will be used.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	

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EQUIPMENT

Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant and equipment

Each item, the checks and certificates it needs, and who may operate it.

PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998

ITEM	CHECKS AND CERTIFICATES	OPERATOR COMPETENCE
Bait stations	Tamper-resistant, lockable and secured; labelled with the product and contact.	Technician
Sprayers and dusters	Seals, hoses and nozzles checked; washed out after use away from drains.	Trained technician
Ladders	Pre-use check each day; detailed inspection on a set schedule.	Trained user
MEWP	Pre-use check; thorough examination at least every 6 months.	IPAF PAL card
Vehicle product store	Locked, ventilated and separate from the cab; spill kit stocked.	Technician
Traps and setting tools	Springs and catches checked; set only with the tool or catch.	Technician

Personal protective equipment

PPE is the last line of defence, after the controls above. Specify the type, not just the item.

PPE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1992

ITEM	NEEDED	TYPE AND SPECIFICATION
Safety helmet	☒	MEWP, roof and bird work
Safety footwear	☒	Grip soles for ladders and roofs
High-visibility clothing	☐	
Gloves	☒	Nitrile for baits; puncture-resistant for voids
Eye protection	☒	Spraying, dusting and overhead work
Hearing protection	☐	
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	FFP3 for droppings; as label for sprays
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☒	Restraint lanyard in a boom MEWP

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CONTROLS

Substances, permits, emergencies and the environment

Hazardous substances		
Each substance and its COSHH assessment.		
COSHH 2002, REGULATION 6		
SUBSTANCE	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	CONTROLS
Anticoagulant rodenticide baits	[ref]	As the label allows; secured stations; gloves; recorded; removed when treatment ends.
Insecticide sprays, gels and dusts	[ref]	People, pets and food cleared; gloves, eye protection and RPE to the label.
Bird droppings and nest material	[ref]	Damped down and bagged, never pressure washed; FFP3, overalls, gloves.
Rat urine and contaminated material	[ref]	Gloves, cuts covered, hands washed before eating; breaks away from the work.

Permits and plans

PERMIT OR PLAN	NEEDED	REFERENCE
Hot work permit	☐	
Permit to work	☒	
Permit to dig or break ground	☐	
Confined space entry	☒	
Lift plan	☐	
Temporary works design	☐	

Emergency and rescue	
First aid, fire, and how someone is rescued. The rescue plan belongs in the RAMS, not after it.	First aider and first aid kit available, with eyewash. Anyone who may have swallowed bait or been exposed to a pesticide gets medical help at once, with the product label. Stings with signs of a severe allergic reaction mean calling 999. Needlestick injuries get urgent medical advice. Missed check-ins are acted on at once.

Environment and neighbours	
Dust, noise, vibration, waste, spills and hours of work.	Baits placed so wildlife and pets cannot reach them, carcasses searched for and removed, and all baits removed at the end of the treatment. No pesticide or washings into drains or watercourses. Unused product returned to the locked store. Waste disposed of through the agreed route.

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TREATMENT RECORD

Bait point and treatment record

One row for each bait point or trap. Mark its location on a plan of the premises, check it at every visit, and account for every point when the treatment ends.

POINT	LOCATION	PRODUCT AND AMOUNT	PLACED	CHECKS AND ACTIVITY	REMOVED
[Ref]	[External wall, rear yard]	[Product, grams]	[Date]	[Date: bait taken / no activity]	[Date]
[Ref]	[Loft, by the hatch]	[Product, grams]	[Date]	[Date: bait taken / no activity]	[Date]
[Ref]	[Bin store]	[Trap type]	[Date]	[Date: catch / no activity]	[Date]
[Ref]	[Plant room]	[Product, grams]	[Date]	[Date: bait taken / no activity]	[Date]

COSHH REGULATIONS 2002, REGULATION 6; GB BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS REGULATION, ARTICLE 17(5); HSE, RODENTICIDES.

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Briefed before the work starts

DATE AND TIME

A SIGNATURE AGAINST A REVISION, ON A DATE, BEFORE THE WORK STARTED, IS HOW A BRIEFING IS EVIDENCED

A pre-filled starting point, not legal advice. Edit it for the site and have it approved.