



“Permanent Baiting” Rules

The rules on permanent toxic baiting using anticoagulant rodenticides have changed based on the EU product authorisations. As a result of the rule changes, permanent toxic baiting is no longer the go-to treatment for the pest control industry.

The renewal of the product authorisations has moved away from the use of permanent baiting due to the risks associated with these products such as-

- the primary poisoning of non-targets, i.e., field mice and shrews etc.
- the secondary poisoning of birds of prey and mammals as a result of feeding on the poisoned non-targets.

Toxic baiting periods should only be for a maximum of 35 days, after this time period, a new/revised risk assessment is required to continue treatment with toxic bait. The product authorisation renewals have resulted in more prescriptive product labels specifying restrictions to the allowed uses by trained professionals only (PMUs). If these new rules are not implemented, there is a risk we may lose these products at the next renewal in 2023.

Permanent toxic baiting is no longer permitted as a routine practice in rodent pest management, long-term baiting is ONLY permitted using specific products in situations where all other alternatives have been considered by registered PMUs.

Permanent baiting is strictly limited to sites (indoors, around buildings, open areas and in sewers) with a high potential for reinvasion when other methods of control have proven insufficient.

When permanent toxic baiting is required and whilst it continues to be justified, the baiting strategy should be periodically reviewed in the context of Integrated Pest management (IPM) and the assessment of the risk for re-infestation. The period between baiting should be determined by the PMU in line with the product label directions and **sites should be revisited every 4 weeks at a minimum during treatment with toxic bait.**

Those who adopt external permanent baiting must first examine and document the risks to non-targets and make a conscious decision that those risks are managed and **permanent baiting must be justified by an examination of the risks to non-targets and an assessment of the continuing threat to human or animal health and hygiene.** The use of internal permanent baiting must also be justified and documented by a continuing threat to human or animal health and hygiene. Records must be kept of site assessments and product usage which should be in line with the authorised label, and a date assigned to carry out a re-review of the site assessment to determine if there is a continued need to use toxic baiting.

Clients should agree a programme with PMUs for when non-toxic monitoring baiting is used. When permanent toxic baiting is used, the PMU will determine the frequency of site visits based on activity. This may be as frequent as daily checks, depending on the site survey and/or risk assessment and/or customer SLA and in line with the product label.