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# National Performance Standards for Pest Operations

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The standards in this document apply when the DOC permission for the pest operation refers to National Performance Standards for Pest Operations docdm-1492976 as a condition.

DOC animal pest operations must follow the procedure and standards in the Operational planning for animal pest operations SOP docdm-1488532.

Possum hunters using cyanide for skin/fur recovery should refer to their DOC permission letter for the complete set of applicable performance standards.

The standards in this and associated documents do not cover all the legal requirements relating to trapping and pesticide use. It is the responsibility of the applicant/operator to identify and comply with legal requirements under the:

- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017
- Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Trespass Act 1980
- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Any other applicable legislation

It is also the responsibility of the applicant/operator to obtain and comply with any other consents/permissions required (e.g. public health permission, resource consent).

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## Links

Download this document and associated forms from the DOC website:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/animal-pest-control-operations/>

Landcare Research <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/maps-satellites/lenz>

NIWA Climate Database <http://cliflo.niwa.co.nz/>

## Amendments

Date	Amendment details	Version
2/06/2015	Effective date for new document	1.0
8/10/2015	Change to standard requiring pre-operational notification to MOH	1.1
25/11/2015	Change to standard for 24 hour notice methods	1.2
24/03/2016	Update DOC website links	1.3
15/03/2017	Change to exemption for flying the boundary (all the criteria must be met)	1.4
28/11/2017	Changes for the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances Regulations) 2017	2.0
29/04/2019	New warning sign template	2.1
25/08/2021	Update requirements for content of pre-operational notification	2.2
31/05/2022	Add loading site to adjoining landowner notification standards.	2.3

# 1. Notification

Notification means informing local community, stakeholders, visitors and users about a planned pest operation. It occurs after permissions and consents have been obtained. It differs from consultation, which occurs earlier in the planning process and involves a willingness to adapt the proposed operation as a consequence of the information gained from consultation.

## 1.1. Pre-operational notification

Pre-operational notification provides advance notice of the planned operation to audiences you have identified in your communication plan. This section specifies the minimum audiences for pre-operational notification, the content which must be covered, and the timeframe when this must occur.

<b>Compulsory standards:</b>	
1	<p>The target audiences for pre-operational notification include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The DOC manager who issued the permission.</li><li>• Land occupiers within the treatment area (e.g. grazing licence holders).</li><li>• For operations involving vertebrate pesticides, land occupiers and (as far as practicable) owners adjacent to the treatment area and if applicable aerial loading site(s).</li><li>• The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for any operations involving pesticides that do not require public health permission.</li></ul>
2	<p>All target audience are given written information that covers the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Location and size of the treatment area</li><li>• Why control is needed at that site (covering values, pest problem, and intended conservation outcome)</li><li>• The details of the control method (pesticide, toxic loading, bait type and method)</li><li>• Why this control method was chosen</li><li>• Intended dates of application</li><li>• Key facts about the method, including risks and mitigation</li><li>• Details of the permissions required and the consultation/notification process</li><li>• What to do if poisoning is suspected</li><li>• Contact details for further information (including job title, organisation and phone number of the person responsible for the operation)</li><li>• A map of the treatment area that clearly shows the boundaries. Include districts, roads and other commonly known features that may identify the place</li></ul>
3	<p>Pre-operational notification is completed a minimum of 2 weeks before the intended date of operation and prior to any public notice. When notifying clubs or other organisations, a longer period before the operation will be needed to allow for the information to be passed on to members.</p>

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| 4 | <p>A communication record of the pre-operational notification that actually took place is produced, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actual dates when the notification was undertaken</li> <li>• Outcomes of the notification, including any issues and how they were addressed</li> <li>• References to resources used</li> </ul> |
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## 1.2. Twenty-four hour notice

The twenty-four hour notice confirms that the start of the operation is imminent and reminds audiences of key risk messages. This section specifies the minimum audiences for twenty-four hour notice, the content which must be covered, the acceptable notification methods, and the timeframe when this must occur.

<b>Compulsory standards:</b>	
1	<p>The target audiences for twenty-four hour notice include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DOC manager who issued the permission. Close liaison must be maintained throughout the operation.</li> <li>• Land occupiers within the treatment area (e.g. grazing licence holders).</li> <li>• For operations involving vertebrate pesticides, land occupiers and (as far as practicable) owners adjacent to the treatment area and if applicable aerial loading site(s).</li> </ul>
2	<p>The twenty-four hour notice is done by visit, phone call, text message or email. Text message or email are only used if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recipient has stated that this is their preferred method of contact</li> <li>• The content standard is still met</li> <li>• Contact details are provided for any questions/issues</li> <li>• The recipient replies to the message to acknowledge that they have received it</li> </ul>
3	<p>The twenty-four hour notice is completed 24 – 48 hours prior to bait application.</p>
4	<p>Compulsory content for twenty-four hour notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planned start date of the operation</li> <li>• Timing of any closures of tracks or loading sites</li> <li>• Reminder that the presence of warning signs indicates pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals</li> <li>• The risk message not to take animals for eating applies to the buffer zone of the operations, as well as the treatment area itself</li> </ul>
5	<p>A communication record of the twenty-four hour notice that actually took place is produced, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actual dates when the notification was undertaken</li> </ul>

- Method of notification
- Outcomes of the notification, including any issues and how they were addressed
- References to resources used

## 2. Communicating boundaries

The standards in this section ensure boundaries of vertebrate pesticide operations are:

- Clearly identified
- Captured digitally
- Confirmed with adjacent landowners
- Communicated to operators

### Compulsory standards:

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| 1 | Prior to ground based pesticide application, the field supervisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receives a copy of the map</li><li>• Is briefed regarding the location of sensitive boundaries and exclusion zones by the permission holder (or a person nominated by them)</li></ul>  |
| 2 | A navigational guidance system is used for all aerial operations.   |
| 3 | Prior to aerial pesticide application the aerial contractor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receives a digital copy of the treatment boundary and exclusion zones, and uploads these to the onboard GPS system prior to applying pesticide</li><li>• Flies the boundaries of the treatment area and exclusion zones with the permission holder (or a person nominated by them) to confirm that the electronic boundary is correct and familiarise themselves with the boundary (the approving manager can exempt certain boundaries from this requirement)</li><li>• Is briefed regarding the location of sensitive boundaries and exclusion zones, and outlines his/her sowing plan to ensure that these boundaries will not be breached, to the satisfaction of the permission holder</li><li>• Receives copies of all relevant consents and approvals, and a hard copy of the map</li></ul> |

### Exceptions

The approving manager can allow exemptions to the requirement to fly certain boundaries provided they meet all the following criteria:

- Are not considered to be sensitive boundaries for any reason
- Adjoin treatment areas for which all required permissions are held
- Are readily distinguishable from the air (e.g., bushline)

The approving manager can allow exemptions to fly all the boundaries for a rotenone operation where it is not practical due to the size and obvious boundaries of the application area.

### 3. Warning signs

Warning sign templates for each pesticide use are available on the DOC website - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/managing-animal-pests/warning-sign-templates/>

This includes signs for aerial loading sites or fumigation as required by the standard on the relevant DOC Performance Standards sheets.

Design an Information sign for anything else you want to include (e.g., maps, purpose of operation).

**Compulsory standards:**

- Warning signs of any design other than the ones linked from the DOC website for Managing Animal Pests **must not** be used.
- Only the operational fields listed below may be changed. No other content or formatting may be altered.
  - Contact details
  - Logo(s) added (if applicable)
  - Date of bait application
  - Bait description or clear photograph of bait, to show someone what they might encounter

**DANGER POISON**

**POTASSIUM CYANIDE**  
**TOXIC to PEOPLE and ANIMALS**

will be present on, or raised above, the ground from: 5 May 2019

- **DO NOT TOUCH** poison bait
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times
- **Poison bait or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS**

For more information, contact:  
 Field Supervisor  
 Phone: 0271234567

Pest Regulators Ltd

**In an emergency, dial 111**

**Unauthorised removal of signs or baits is an offence**

3	<p>Display the following contact details for the person in control of the field work (usually the supervisor):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Position title and agency/organisation as specifically as possible</li> <li>• Business phone number where that person can be contacted during normal business hours</li> </ul>
4	<p>Every operation has a sign register that is maintained until signs are removed, with the following details for all signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location (e.g., on a map or by listing GPS reference)</li> <li>• Type (e.g., warning, information)</li> <li>• Size (e.g., A2, A3, A4)</li> <li>• Date installed</li> <li>• Dates checked for maintenance</li> <li>• Date removed</li> </ul>
5	<p>Signs located at normal points of entry (as shown on permissions map) are to be at least A3 in size. Warning signs in other places can be A4 in size.</p>
6	<p>Install signs as close as possible before the start of bait application (i.e., on the day before where possible).</p>
7	<p>Warning signs at normal points of entry are visible and legible at all times throughout the operation.</p>
8	<p>Signs are removed when the caution period is concluded, and the approving manager is notified in writing.</p>
9	<p>Warning signs are not to be attached to existing DOC signs or structures unless specifically authorised by DOC.</p>



## 4. Bait and carcass monitoring

This section applies to operations using vertebrate pesticides where bait and/or carcass monitoring is required for the operation, where this is stated on at least one Performance Standards sheet included in the DOC permission.

### Definitions

The endpoints for bait and carcass breakdown are defined as follows:

- Baits: Baits have completely disappeared, or only a few separated particles of grain or wax flakes remain.
- Carcasses: All soft tissue has disappeared and only bones, skin and fur remain.

Caution period: The timeframe (usually number of months) after the last date of bait application (or bait removal) when DOC expects that the risk of pesticide residues to the public will have passed.

The minimum caution period is the shortest legally compliant caution period that can apply to a particular pesticide use.

The estimated caution period is the caution period established in the DOC permission for an operation and communicated in the DOC Pesticide Summary. The estimated caution period can be subject to bait and/or carcass monitoring, which can result in the period being extended or shortened.

### Step 1: Identify the number of sites to be sampled

Monitor bait and carcass decay rates at one site for every 750 m of vertical height within your treatment area, and at least one site where average annual rainfall varies by more than 1500 mm. For climate data see the NIWA Climate Database <http://cliflo.niwa.co.nz/>.

Alternatively, identify the number of sites to be sampled, using the Land Environments New Zealand (LENZ) level 1 data accessible through Landcare Research <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/maps-satellites/lenz>. You will need to monitor bait and carcass decay rates at one site for each level 1 land environment present.

Where a monitoring site is remote or has difficult access, a similar site at the same altitude outside the treatment area can be used as a surrogate. Non-toxic baits may need to be used if approval to lay pesticides has not been given for the surrogate area.

Talk to the person who assessed your application to use pesticides on land managed by DOC if you are uncertain about how many sites should be sampled.

### Step 2: Place baits and carcasses at each site

The start point for bait and carcass monitoring is the same as the start point for the caution period (i.e., either the last date of bait application or when baits are removed or destroyed). Place baits and carcasses at each site at this time. Photograph baits and carcasses from a fixed position to create a record of the start point for monitoring.

### Step 3: Monitor baits and carcasses

Check baits and/or carcasses (as required by the DOC permission) once the minimum caution period has elapsed to find out whether the estimated caution period can be shortened. If all endpoints have been reached, the estimated caution period can be shortened and concluded.

If not, continue monitoring until the end of the estimated caution period to find out which of the following will apply:

- The estimated caution period has elapsed: If all endpoints have been reached, conclude the caution period.
- The estimated caution period needs to be extended: Decide on a new estimated caution period and advise the approving manager in writing. Monitoring is continued and the caution period is re-extended until the all endpoints have been reached. This is the point at which the caution period is concluded.

Photograph carcasses every time that they are checked from a fixed position to create a record of decay over time. Baits are only photographed at the start point and endpoint.

Toxicological analysis can be used to confirm expiry of the caution period if you suspect that the remaining bait or carcass is non toxic.

### Step 4: Conclude the estimated caution period and report on monitoring

When the caution period has concluded, remove the warning signs and notify the approving manager in writing.

#### Compulsory standards:

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| 1 | The number of monitoring sites is reasonable when evaluated against the LENZ level 1 data (i.e. one site for each environment present) or the range of climates represented at the site.  |
| 2 | <p>At each monitoring site, the number and placement of baits and/or carcasses meets the following standards:</p> <p><b>Handlaid baits</b><br/>Three to six baits are monitored at each site. These are enclosed in wire mesh with holes no more than 8 mm x 8 mm, to prevent them being eaten by rodents. Place them on the ground to allow soil decomposers to access them. Place them under vegetation that is most typical of the denser cover in the treatment area. Place them on colder aspects (e.g., southern), to measure the slowest rate of decay.</p> <p><b>Bait in bait bags</b><br/>If bait bags containing toxic bait are to be left in the field, three to six bait bags are to be monitored at each site. These are enclosed in wire mesh with holes no more than 8 mm x 8 mm, and placed in a similar manner to the bait bag placement used in the operation.</p> <p><b>Carcasses</b><br/>Use possum carcasses except where impractical (e.g., rat control in a possum-free area) or where larger animals are easier to source and monitor (e.g., goats or deer). At least two possum carcasses need to be monitored at each site.</p> |

Carcasses can be sourced from anywhere, but need to be reasonably fresh carcasses with no major open wounds. They do not have to be protected from rodents, but secured to prevent pigs, dogs, or cats from taking them (e.g., inside a possum cage trap pinned to the ground).

Place the carcass on the ground to allow soil decomposers to access them. Place them under vegetation that is most typical of the denser cover in the treatment area. Place them on colder aspects (e.g., southern), to measure the slowest rate of decay.

- 3 The caution period is concluded when the minimum caution period has elapsed **and** the following monitoring endpoints have been reached:
- Baits have completely disappeared, or only a few separated particles of grain or wax flakes remain.
  - For carcasses, all soft tissue has disappeared and only bones, skin and fur remain.

- 4 The approving manager is notified when the caution period is shortened, extended or concluded. Notification includes supplying the bait and/or carcass monitoring report.

- 5 Compulsory bait and carcass monitoring results are recorded in a report that includes:
- Operation name
  - Pesticide uses in the operation
  - Caution period start date
  - Date endpoint(s) reached for each monitoring site
  - Photos for the first and final monitoring visit to each monitoring site
  - A statement of whether the treatment area was 'dry' (i.e. <600mm rainfall/year or low rainfall during the monitoring period)
  - A statement of whether mean temperature in the 6 months following the operation was <10 degrees

## 5. Other standards

These general standards apply to all pest operations to improve safety and protect the environment and wildlife in areas where pesticides or traps are used.

<b>Compulsory standards:</b>	
1	This pesticide must not be used, stored or prepared, with any prefeed, bait or attractant which is likely to lead any person to believe that the substance is intended for human consumption.
2	This pesticide must not be used in any culinary utensil or other container that usually contains food or beverages, or could be mistakenly identified as containing food or beverages, regardless of any modification or other warning labels attached.
3	Contaminated safety equipment, machinery and any other equipment that has been in contact with the pesticide are washed at a location where runoff is unlikely to enter any natural waterbody.
4	All pesticide not legally applied and all pesticide packaging is removed from DOC administered land and disposed of in a way which meets all legal requirements.
5	Use temporary, removable or biodegradable markers to mark bait lines and location. All markers must be removed when the work is completed. Do not use aerosol paints.
6	No damage or harvesting of trees or other forest growth is permitted. Do not cut tracks and/or blaze trees.
7	If any protected wildlife is harmed it must be cared for and handed in, as soon as possible, whether dead or alive, to the nearest Department of Conservation Office.
8	Toilet waste (solids) must be buried and this must occur at least 50 metres away from water bodies.