



Industry Update Winter 2005

Pestoff is the Registered Trade Mark of Animal Control Products Ltd, 408 Heads Road, Wanganui, New Zealand

1080 PRODUCTS TO TRANSFER 1 JULY 2005

In early May, ERMA New Zealand announced that 1080 products will transfer to the HSNO Act on 1 July 2005.

This means that 1080 will become subject to the HSNO Regulations which control a range of conditions under which 1080 may be sold, packed, transported, used and disposed of. The main controls are:

- 1080 must be under the control of an approved handler at all times except when being transported by a transport operator with a DG endorsement.
- Signs must be erected before 1080 is laid. The 3 day time requirement in the regulations has been removed. New requirements cover the clarity of information on signs and the length of time signs must remain in place.
- A maximum application rate is set for aerial application (30 grams of active per ha)
- A unique (serial number) identifier must be on all 1080 packages and these must be recorded when sold, transferred and when product is used or disposed of.
- Supply and acquisition of 1080 is limited to persons with a licence (known as a controlled substance licence). The requirement for operators to apply for a controlled substances licence commences 1 November 2005.

- Permission is required to use 1080 on DOC land or in situations where a public health risk may arise.
- Persons in possession of 1080 must have a licence unless they are under the immediate supervision of a person with a licence.
- Restrictions (including public notification requirements) for aerial application.
- Requirements for aircraft carrying out aerial application.
- Reporting requirements in the event of losing, spilling or incorrectly applying 1080.
- Unauthorised persons not allowed to remain in an application area.
- Baits may be coloured green or blue; the colour range requirement has been removed.
- All 1080 products in the range 0.04% to 0.2% will fall into Packaging Group III, allowing up to 250 kg to be carried as "tools of trade".

Transitional provisions will apply to allowing affected parties a little time before they must have systems and procedures in place to become compliant with the various controls. The transitional periods for the other VTA's transferred last November, begin to expire on 31 October 2005.

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AUSSIES CLEAR 1080 USE

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has made a preliminary ruling in favour of the continued use of 1080 despite concerns by some opponents about its impact on native animals. The APVMA has been reviewing 1080 for almost 3 years and has recommended only label changes be made. 200 kg of 1080 is used each year in Australia for the control of rabbits, foxes, wild dogs and feral pigs. The APVMA decision was welcomed by farmers.

Animal Control Products Ltd Important Contact Information

Wanganui Office Phone	64 6 344 5302
Wanganui Office Fax	64 6 344 2260
Waimate Factory Phone	64 3 689 8367
Waimate Factory Fax	64 3 689 8804
Bill Simmons Mobile	64 25 798 318
Web Site : http://www.pestoff.co.nz/	*****
E-mail address: info@pestoff.co.nz	*****
Safety Data Sheets: http://www.pestoff.co.nz/msdpage.htm	*****

CANE TOAD COMPETITION WINNERS

Our winners of the competition to come up with the most ridiculous and most likely solutions for dealing with Wiwa Island's cane toad problem were Dave and Jeanie Byers of Hamilton. They suggested "toad spikes" (like road spikes) on which the leaping toads will impale themselves! Dave and Jeanie each received a Pestoff t-shirt and cap. The authorities on Wiwa have not yet leapt at the idea and the NZ Patent Office still awaits a patent application from the Byers'.

DEAD RAT CAFÉ ADOPTED BY FRENCH ISLAND TEAM

The name *Dead Rat Café* was adopted for this transportable hut Chateau Island, a French territory in the southern Indian Ocean. This team from the French Southern and Antarctic Lands Department used the hut as a kitchen while carrying out checks for rodent presence in 2004 following the 2002 eradication over the 230 hectare island using **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**. The huge loaf shown in the picture was in no danger of being eaten by rodents, as none could be found despite exhaustive searching of the island. The team, led by Dr Thierry Micol (front left) has since applied 30 tonnes of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** to 2,100 ha Australia Island, making this the fourth island in the region where rodent eradication has been carried out.



UPDATES

WEST COAST BUFFER WORK GOING EXTREMELY WELL

Dale Rowling of the West Coast Regional Council is extremely pleased with progress on the ground-based 1 km buffer work being carried out on the perimeters of TB vector risk blocks which have previously been treated with aerially applied 1080 pellets. This buffer work is designed to sustain the benefits of the aerial work and eliminate the risk of re-infection in the treated areas. The majority of the buffer work is being carried out by Target Pest Contracting Ltd but three other companies have also carried out some of the work. The targeted residual catch rate is around 3% (mean) but most of the contracts are coming in at below 1% RTC said Dale. Dave Cartwright, Target Pest Contracting Senior Area Manager on the West Coast says that 25 to 30 men have hand broadcasted 1080 cereal pellets and applied Pestoff Exterminator Paste for 90% of the work, covering 131,000 hectares this financial year. Contractors will continue working the 1 km buffers throughout next financial year.

RHD FLOPS AND RABBITS FLOURISH

High percentages of RHD-resistant rabbits have led the Otago Region Council to a decision not to be involved in releasing a new strain of RHD virus which will soon be imported by syndicate of regional councils. Resistance to RHD is widespread in Otago rabbit populations reports Peter Preston, Regional Services Manager based in Cromwell. The latest surveys show that an average of 50% and up to 87% of rabbits in Central Otago are now resistant to RHD. "Even in the best areas, RHD has reduced rabbit numbers by only 1 or 2 percent over the last 12 months", Peter Preston said. "Overall, rabbit numbers in Otago have increased rapidly throughout the summer and we will be starting 1080 ground and aerial work against rabbits in June, using 10%-15% more bait than we used last year", he said. Peter said that one of the biggest problems had been property subdivision and speculation resulting in a lot of absentee ownership. "Foreign and absentee owners don't want to spend money on a problem they can't see. Some areas have rabbits at McLean scale 7 or 8", said Peter.

ACP TO CO-SPONSOR BUSHY PARK PREDATOR ERADICATION EFFORT

ACP will be involved as a co-sponsor to what will hopefully become the final chapter in a 9 year history of vertebrate pest and predator eradication in the 100 hectare Bushy Park, west of Wanganui. When the programme got underway in 1996, ACP was involved in providing bait and bait stations for knocking down the possum and rodent populations in this magnificent area of lowland mixed podocarp forest. Although the local wildlife including tuis, bellbirds kereru and morepork undoubtedly benefited from the intensive possum, rat and later mustelid control, it soon became evident that local eradication could not be achieved because of the boundaries being open to re-infestation from neighbouring areas. The Bushy Park Trust concluded that the only solution was to erect a predator proof fence and "blitz" the predators remaining on the inside of the fence. The 4.7 km "Excluder" fence is almost complete and eradication of the remaining predators, principally rats and mice, will begin in August with the first of two drops of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**. The drop is likely to also impact on possums, mustelids and hedgehogs through both primary and secondary poisoning. The park already has a healthy robin population and all going well, it will soon become home for other bird species including brown kiwi, saddleback and takahe.

PIROSKA

Piroska Fromont is our newest staff member and has replaced our previous accounts officer Wendy Boddington.



Piroska has an extensive background in business accounting in New Zealand and overseas in Switzerland, where she grew up.

HORIZONS DISESTABLISHES BUSINESS UNIT

Forty-five staff of Horizons Regional Council's animal pest business unit have been given notice that the unit will be disestablished at the end of July following an evening council meeting resolution. The unit has struggled to secure Tb vector control contracts in the competitive environment and has recorded significant financial losses since its establishment 4 years ago. This leaves only 4 out of 15 regions - Wellington, Otago, Canterbury and the West Coast - carrying out a share of their own regions' bovine Tb vector control contracts. Since the introduction of contestable contracts 8 years ago, 11 regions have turned to contractors for all pest control work and have disestablished or re-assigned their pest control units. There is also an increasing tendency within DOC to use contractors for work it previously carried out using its own staff.



THE MOTHER OF ALL PELLET JOBS

Possum population trend monitoring in the forests west of Lake Taupo last year revealed a high number of possums which needed controlling.

Bait acceptance trials carried out earlier by Horizons staff from Taumarunui showed that cereal pellet baits were well ahead of carrot bait as the most preferred possum food.

As a consequence the balloon went up on what is without question, the biggest aerial 1080 pellet bait operation of all time!

Covering 80,000 hectares of the forested Hauhungaroa Range west of Lake Taupo, this operation presents some special challenges for the Taupo based company EPRO Limited who won the contract for the work; costing well over \$2 million.

The ordering, manufacture, storage and handling of around 600 tonnes of pellets, the co-ordination of transport, stock clearance, landowner consultation and flying using multiple loading sites scattered around the range are just a few of the logistical issues which EPRO Director Ian Roberts and his staff have to handle.

The strategic importance of the Hauhungaroa operation lies in the fact that the range has been a continuous source of Tb infection into adjacent areas for 30 years, although the number of Tb infected herds on both sides of the range is now low - thanks to past control efforts. Since the mid 1970's the Hauhungaroa's have had regular treatment with aerial 1080 but this operation is designed to break the cycle of recurring bovine Tb in the area.

The objective is to eradicate Tb in the area by starting with this aerial operation and following up with a re-fly in 3 - 5 years time. Both aerial operations will be augmented by on-going ground treatment on the fringes.



The Hauhungaroa Range operation covers 800 square kilometres and will use around 600 tonnes of 1080 and pre-feed pellet bait. The contractors are EPRO Ltd of Taupo.

According to Animal Health Board (AHB) Technical Manager Paul Livingstone, the long term goal is to stop spending money on Tb vector control in the southern Waikato and northern Manawatu/Wanganui (Horizons) regions.

Paul says that the operational plan in this case is modeled on a very successful AHB funded aerial 1080 pellet operation carried out in the

Hokonui Hills of Southland last year. In the Hokonuis, which had a long history of possum control with 1080, two aerial pre-feeds were applied followed by a toxic drop.

"The post-operational monitoring in the Hokonuis couldn't catch a possum and although subsequent monitoring has caught one or two, numbers are extremely low", said Paul. Paul said it is hoped that using the same method of two pre-feeds and a toxic drop of 12 gram baits will achieve similar near-zero possum densities in the Hauhungaroa and Tb infection will be eradicated from the possum population there.

The Department of Conservation is funding the Waihaha catchment part of the operation; an area with special ecological values. The operation will have conservation benefits for a number of rare and endangered species in the range including northern rata, dactylanthus, native bats, falcon, kaka, kereru and blue duck.



Picking out the stones, pieces of wood and other foreign matter from the washed carrots before they were cut in this 1976 Western Bays 1080 aerial operation run by NZ Forest Service.

Photo by Kerry Matthews



Pellets are so convenient!

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES LICENSES

Under the HSNO Act, certain substances can only be used by, or be under the control of 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.

An applicant for a Controlled Substances Licence must meet a number of conditions:

1. **Must be 17 years of age and over.**
2. **Must require the substance for their work.**
3. **Must be a fit and proper person.**
4. **Must be trained adequately to use the substance (i.e., holder of an Approved Handler Test Certificate issued by a registered Test Certifier).**

Once a Licence is approved, the Licence holder is issued a licence card with holds personal details (including a photo-ID image), details of the controlled substances they are authorised to hold and use, which part of the substances life cycle (e.g. Manufacture, sale, storage, use, or application in the field). This licence must be produced on demand by an enforcement



The front of the licence will show the licence holder's details while the rear will show which substances the holder is authorised to possess, at which stage of the life cycle, and any special conditions.

officer or supplier of the substance. The only person other than the holder of a Controlled Substances Licence, who may be in possession of:

- 1080
- Cyanide
- DRC1339
- Phosphorus
- More than 3 kg of Magtoxin
- Any other controlled substance listed by ERMANZ

is a transport operator who holds a dangerous goods endorsement on his or her drivers licence.

Animal Control Products Ltd is required to ensure it sells these controlled substances

only to Controlled Substances Licence holders and only a Controlled Substances Licence holder may take receipt of these controlled substances at the point of delivery.

Drivers will be required to record the name and licence details of the person receiving the goods and if there is no Controlled Substances Licence holder present (for the particular substances) by law the goods cannot be offloaded.

Licences will be available from Test Certifiers after 1 July 2005.

For more information visit : <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz>

PESTOFF DEAD RAT CAFÉ AND PESTOFF RODENT BLOCKS PROVE TO BE A POPULAR COMBINATION

Due to a bumper breeding season for rodents, Pestoff Rodent Blocks and Pestoff Dead Rat Cafés have been selling like hot cakes through the autumn and early winter. In addition to the usual customers, nut growers, pig farmers, poultry farmers and the Department of Conservation have kept the demand for the blocks at an all time high. DOC's rodent control operations in Canterbury and Otago have employed the blocks as part of its species protection programme in high country beech forests. The Dead Rat Cafés and Rodent Blocks have also been a hit with overseas customers working on rodent eradication/island restoration projects in the Seychelles and on Pacific Islands.



Pestoff Dead Rat Café and Pestoff Rodent Blocks



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POSTAGE PAID WANGANUI
PERMIT #59424

