



Australian Government

AHCPMG312 Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 3.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare pest animal baiting programs. This includes the safe preparation and distribution of poison baits for the control of vertebrate pest animals affecting the rural and natural environment according to legislative and regulatory requirements.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources and for solving problems.

State or territory licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply in some jurisdictions.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Pest Management (PMG)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify vertebrate pests' species and prepare a poison baiting program	1.1 Identify the pest animal species and abundance in target area 1.2 Assess the type, availability and mode of action of poison for control of pest animal species in target area 1.3 Identify key aspects of pest animal species ecology, habitat use and control program objectives to determine the timing and extent of

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	baiting program 1.4 Assess public health, safety hazards, risks and regulatory restrictions for control options 1.5 Assess environmental conditions and off target risk for control options 1.6 Select appropriate control option, baiting technique, poison and delivery method appropriate for target pest species, location and landscape 1.7 Prepare baiting program to maximise pest animal control objectives according to legislative and regulatory requirements 1.8 Determine monitoring and reporting protocols to evaluate effectiveness of baiting program according to legislative and regulatory requirements
2. Obtain and confirm approvals for accessing and using poison baits	2.1 Identify necessary approvals and notification requirements for the location of the baiting program and poison use according to legislative and regulatory requirements and toxin/poison label requirements 2.2 Access and complete documentation to gain approvals for use of poisons and baits according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements 2.3 Ensure approvals have been granted, received and filed according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements 2.4 Notify stakeholders of intended baiting program according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements
3. Prepare, transport and store baits	3.1 Determine the type of bait, quantity and dose rate of poison for the pest control program according to poison label and legislative and regulatory requirements 3.2 Select, ensure serviceability, fit and use personal protective equipment for baits according to chemical label and safety data sheets (SDS) 3.3 Select suitable location to prepare poison bait according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements, codes of practice or guidelines 3.4 Prepare bait for the target species, bait substrate/material and poison according to label and legislative and regulatory requirements 3.5 Transport poisons and prepared baits according to legislative and regulatory requirements

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	3.6 Prepare baits for storage according to baiting program requirements, type of bait and legislative and regulatory requirements 3.7 Store the treated baits safely according to workplace procedures, legislative and regulatory requirements and poison label directions 3.8 Clean and decontaminate bait preparation and distribution equipment according to operator instructions, SDS and legislative and regulatory requirements
4. Distribute and monitor baits in target area	4.1 Monitor and assess weather conditions and forecasts to ensure effective conditions for baiting to proceed 4.2 Ensure notifications have been communicated and signage installed prior to baiting program according to legislative and regulatory requirements 4.3 Identify health and safety hazards and risks and implement controls when handling and distributing baits according to workplace procedures, poison label directions and SDS 4.4 Distribute baits in target area to maximise target pest access and minimise off target risk according to label directions and baiting program 4.5 Monitor bait uptake and control outcomes in a timely manner according to baiting program requirements, poison label directions and legislative and regulatory requirements 4.6 Clean up and dispose of baits according to poison label instructions, workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements
5. Recording and reporting on outcomes of baiting program	5.1 Record and report safety and environmental incidents according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements 5.2 Record details of poison bait application and outcomes according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Read and interpret SDS, poison labels, operating instruction, applicable legislation and regulations and other documentation and consolidates information to determine baiting requirements
Writing	- Complete regulatory applications and forms for permissions according to legislation and regulations - Accurately record and complete organisational and legislative records using clear language and terminology
Numeracy	Perform mathematical calculations to determine bait size and quantity relevant to the vertebrate animal population and scale of the program
Navigate the world of work	- Take responsibility for following policies, procedures and regulations - Identify and implement poison label requirements
Get the work done	Take responsibility for planning, sequencing and prioritising tasks required for baiting activities

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCPMG312 Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes	Not applicable	New Unit	No equivalent unit

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCPMG312 Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has on at least one occasion demonstrated the ability to apply poison baits for vertebrate pest animals in a rural or natural environmental landscape ensuring they have:

- identified pest animal species and abundance
- identified and assessed the availability, mode of action of poison and their application for control of vertebrate pest animal species
- identified and selected the poison and baits required for the target pest and calculated the requirements for bait size according to poison label and regulatory requirements
- determined the timing for undertaking a baiting program in consideration of target animal ecology, behaviour, location and landscape
- identified the various approaches to baiting for pest animal species and selects most appropriate form of baiting for target pest animal species and environment
- assessed environmental and off target hazards and risks
- developed a poison baiting program and monitoring protocol suitable for pest control objectives for target vertebrate pest and location
- identified and accessed legislative and regulatory forms and made application for approvals to access and implement a poison baiting program
- confirmed approvals and notified stakeholders of poison baiting program
- assessed health and safety in the workplace hazards, risks and implemented control procedures for applying and handling poison baits according to poison label, safety data sheets (SDS), legislative and regulatory requirements, and workplace procedures
- used personal protective equipment for all poison bait activities
- prepared baits for target species in a suitable location
- prepared bait for storage and stored the bait safely ready for distribution according to poison label and workplace procedures
- monitored and assessed weather to ensure effective baiting conditions according to workplace procedures and poison label
- transported baits according to legislative requirements

- installed signage and distributed baits ensuring effective target access and minimising off target risks according to baiting program
- monitored bait stations in a timely manner according to poison label and baiting program
- cleaned equipment, spills, and disposed of waste and baits according to workplace and environmental procedures, SDS and poison labels
- maintained records and reported incidents according to workplace procedures and legislative and regulatory requirements.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- vertebrate pests and their impact on the rural and environmental landscape
- vertebrate pesticides, toxins or poisons to control and manage pest animal species, including:
 - types
 - origin
 - mode of action
 - application
- application and use of pesticides in vertebrate animal baiting program
- baiting techniques for the delivery of vertebrate pesticide toxins or poisons to target species in a baiting program
- regulatory conditions for the use of vertebrate pesticides in pest animal baiting programs, including:
 - legal implications
 - requirements of poisons labels
 - role of SDS
 - regulated poisons including Schedule 7
- federal, state or territory guidelines and codes of practice for the preparation and use of poison baits for pest animals
- types and characteristics of vertebrate pests and their impact on the human and natural environment, including:
 - life cycle
 - effect on farms and farmland
 - effect on natural ecosystem and landscape
 - effect on the urban environment
- options for controlling vertebrate pests for a control program, including:
 - poison baiting
 - fumigation
 - habitat destruction
 - concussive (explosive) force
 - trapping

- shooting
- fencing
- Integrated Pest Management
- guard animals
- aversions
- bait techniques and technologies, including:
 - grains
 - meat
 - fruits and vegetables
 - bait stations
 - baiting trails
 - replacement baiting programs
 - canid pest ejectors
 - aerial baiting
- legislation, regulations and licensing requirements in relation to access and use of poisons and poison baits, including:
 - application process for permits and licencing
 - roles and responsibilities of land owners, pest controllers and government agencies for using poison baits
- stakeholders and required notifications including, neighbours, staff and statutory notifications
- bait distribution techniques and considerations, including:
 - impact of weather
 - pest species and their habits
 - breeding cycle
 - feeding and caching (storing) behaviours
 - watering behaviours
- predation risk to rural and environmental assets being protected
- building baiting program into farm or park management activities
- factors that contribute to off target risks, including:
 - proximity to urban and peri urban environment
 - domestic animal behaviours
 - pest animal interactions
 - native birds and animal activities
- hazards of poisons and their application, including:
 - human and animal health
 - environmental contamination
 - residues in environment, plants and animals
 - timing for checking bait stations/sites
- safety requirements when handling, treating and distributing poisonous baits, including:

- procedures
- personal protective equipment
- signage
- preparing poisonous baits, including:
 - bait types
 - sizes
 - preparation before and after treatment
 - equipment and methods of treating baits
- safe handling, transport and storage of treated baits and poison concentrates
- requirements for disposal of waste poison and baits, clearing spillages and equipment clean up.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in a typical workplace environment or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - poison baits
 - personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - workplace documents including work instructions and procedures for bait distribution and planning
 - poison labels and SDS
 - legislation and regulations relevant to the use of poisons and poison baits
 - access to weather forecasts or means to measure local weather.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

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