

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (SGAR) Information Document.

Dear customer,

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) is contacting you on behalf of our member (***Pestforce Derbyshire Ltd***) to inform you of the pending changes to the way that professional pest controllers administer and monitor Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGAR)

What is a SGAR?

SGAR's are the edible baits that are used by your pest control contractor to eradicate rodent activity in and around your site. They are the principle control measure for rodents throughout the United Kingdom, and when used correctly they offer quick and effective control of target rodent pest species.

What is the problem with SGAR's?

Unfortunately, SGAR's are not species specific. This means that once administered, they will kill both target and non-target rodents and animals if the application method is not carefully managed. If non-target rodents are killed, or target rodent species are not removed once dead, then species such as birds of prey will consume the dead rodents. As the dead animal contains the SGAR, it is in turn passed onto the bird - this is termed as 'secondary poisoning'. For a number of years the levels of SGAR's present in non-target species have been increasing, and for this reason the government authorities have decided that corrective action must be taken. The government department that controls the use of SGAR's in the UK is the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Can our Pest Contractor still use SGAR's?

SGAR's are still available to your pest control contractor, but the way that they use them will have to change. Long-term use of SGAR's in external monitoring points is unlikely to be acceptable in the near future, unless a long-term rodent problem has been identified. It is the view of the HSE that rodenticides can no longer be viewed as the product of first choice to control rats and mice. Your pest controller must consider other control measures such as the removal of food sources, the sealing of gaps and even the use of traps before they can consider applying a SGAR. Your external monitoring points can remain in situ, but in the future they

may contain a non-toxic indication block, a trap, or they may be left empty ready for toxic bait to be applied when rodent activity becomes apparent.

What is an Environmental Risk Assessment?

Your pest control contractor must consider the potential environmental impact of the use of SGAR's, and the way that they will do this is via an assessment. In an Environmental Risk Assessment your contractor will assess the treatment area and the likelihood of non-target species being affected by the use of a rodenticide. The assessment may dictate the follow up frequency or the method of control that is used. Different pest control companies may use different styles of Environmental assessment, but they must all consider the same key points.

Do I need to take any action?

Be assured that your pest control contractor has the tools, training and ability to protect your site from rodent infestations. However, it is essential that you the customer take note of any recommendations that Pestforce gives you. Good hygiene, proofing, good storage and stock rotation will be key factors in the control of rodent activity. Pest control contractors will retain the use of SGAR's only if we meet the requirements set out by the HSE, if we fail to meet their requirements we will completely lose this most valuable tool against rodent infestation and control of your site will become difficult, and incredibly labour intensive. With your support, our members will continue to protect your assets with the targeted and professional use of SGAR's.

Should you have any queries regarding the potential changes to the use of rodenticide on your site, please do not hesitate to contact your contractor (*Pestforce Derbyshire LTD*) or feel free to contact the BPCA for further confirmation.