

The Importance of the SGARs to the Pest Management Industry

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The SGARs are VITAL TOOLS

- Rodent prevention and control are the key services offered by pest controllers in the UK.
- Rodents are a serious threat to humans and animals.
- The SGARs have a unique mix of efficacy and safety because of their delayed modes of action and the existence of a very effective antidote.
- Since 1983 there have been no new rodenticide actives developed of any significance.

The SGARs are VITAL TOOLS

- The safety record of rodenticide use by pest controllers is extremely good.
- We have access to some alternative methods of control, but each of these is severely limited in their application.
- Over-Restriction of SGAR use could result in significant adverse effects on Public Health and Animal Welfare.
- **BEWARE THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES**

DIFFICULTIES IN STAYING LEGAL

- Pest controllers are caught between the conflicting demands of existing legislation and the new requirements of the BPD.
- We must have a relatively simple system to allow us to use SGARs 'outdoors' when needed, in order to protect Public Health and for L.A.s to comply with the 'Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949'.

MEETING CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS

- We are also caught between the expectations of our customers and what is now required by these restrictions in SGAR use.
- We need an unambiguous statement from a Government department outlining the restriction on permanent baiting with SGARs to persuade pest controllers and their customers what is now required.
- The phrase referring to this on product labels must reflect this – the current one is extremely ambiguous.
- Distinguish between the differences in risks to the environment between indoor and outdoor baiting.

PROBLEMS WITH UNTRAINED USERS

- We are concerned about existing levels of rodenticide misuse by untrained users and can see that this is likely to increase with cut backs and increased charging by Local Authorities.
- Product labels can only be fully understood if the implications behind the phrases are explained through interactive training.
- The current uncontrolled supply situation in agricultural stores/internet sales must be stopped by these sectors being forced to adopt the standards of product stewardship already found in the pest control sector.

CLARITY NEEDED IN LABEL TEXT

- Pest controllers are already confused and concerned about the new labelling and of all the discussion that has already gone on regarding the fate of these vital tools. They feel that their livelihoods are under threat.
- We need clear definitions, i.e. for:
 - ‘Buildings’, ‘Public Areas’
- Already anomalies creeping into the new label texts.
- **We can assist in the development of these labels.**