

Pest Prevention

Introduction

The company has established, documented and implemented a Pest Prevention system for the site, which is maintained as part of the Good Storage and Distribution Practices of the Food Safety Quality Management System so that collectively they prevent pest contamination of products and the facility.

Procedure

The company operates a proactive system for the prevention of contamination of products by pests and ensures there are effective controls and processes in place to minimise pest activity. This includes ensuring an integrated pest prevention system is effectively implemented. This procedure is used in conjunction with written Good Storage and Distribution Practices and HACCP plans to ensure adequate pest control. The hazards associated with pests are the contamination of food by bacteria from pests and their droppings and also unwanted contamination of food with pests' bodies, eggs, hairs or droppings. At the factory design stage measures are taken to reduce the risk of contamination by aiming to restrict the access of pests on site.

Materials, packaging and products are stored so as to minimise the risk of infestation. Where stored product pests are considered a risk, appropriate measures are included in the control programme. All incoming goods are inspected for pest infestation. Process equipment handling raw materials vulnerable to infestation is identified and scheduled inspection undertaken. All buildings are required to be adequately proofed as described in QM 12.2 Construction of Premises and Equipment. Waste is managed as per procedures QM 12.8 Waste Disposal to prevent the accumulation of debris and waste on site to prevent the attraction of pests. In order to prevent risk of contamination no animals are allowed on site.

The company employs a Pest Control Association registered pest control contractor to implement a pest control programme and maintain the site free from pest contamination.

The contract agreement defines:

- company and contractor key contact personnel
- a pest management plan describing the contracted service
- term of the contract
- equipment and material storage specifications
- a complete inventory of pesticides (must be approved by the regulatory authority for use in a food facility) including data sheets detailing the safe use and application of baits and other materials such as insecticide sprays or fumigants
- emergency call out procedures
- records to be maintained
- requirement to notify facility of any changes in service or materials used

Document Reference **QM 12.2.10 Pest Prevention**

Revision 1 1st March 2018

Owned by: Quality Assurance Manager

Authorised By: General Manager





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- authorised service personnel including evidence of competency by exam from a recognized organization or regulatory authority
- a site map with the identification, location, number and type of bait stations set

The contracted service provides:

- monthly site visits and inspections including service records describing current levels of pest activity and recommendations for taking Corrective Actions.
- inspections including the periphery and internal and external buildings
- the provision of a plan/diagram of the site showing the location of all pest control monitoring and prevention measures
- flying insect controls including fly killing units
- emergency 24-hour call-out service
- quarterly biologist inspection reports, visit and trend reports with recommendations
- a current copy of the certificate of insurance that specifies the liability coverage
- Spill control materials and procedures
- Material Safety Data Sheet information to ensure proper usage of pesticide chemicals.

Both the contract and service agreement information are held in the Pest Control File which is managed by the Quality Assurance Manager who has overall responsibility for pest control on site.

Before agreeing to a contract the Quality Assurance Manager verifies that the pest control contractor is qualified. Copies of training records and qualifications are held in the pest control file for each person who performs pest management services on site. At the start of the contract a detailed survey of the entire facility is completed by a qualified Field Biologist and the results are documented and used to determine placement of monitoring devices.

Exterior Bait Stations

Exterior rodent bait stations are set up to deter rodents from entering the facility. Based on the detailed facility survey, exterior bait stations are placed along the foundation walls on the exterior of the facility and along the site boundaries. Exterior bait stations containing rodenticides are tamper resistant, anchored in place, locked, and labelled. All exterior bait stations are inspected at least monthly. The bait stations are checked more often when activity levels increase. Baits are secured inside bait stations, in good condition, and replaced as needed. Bait stations are placed at intervals of 15 m although areas of high rodent activity may have a higher concentration of bait stations.

Interior Monitoring

Based on the detailed Field Biologist survey, interior monitoring devices are placed in strategic sensitive areas specific to the rodent species, and other areas of pest activity, including:

- Material warehouses

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- Actions taken
- Person taking the action and signature

The log is used to identify and eliminate areas where pest activity is observed and to document corrective Actions taken. In the event of an infestation the Quality Assurance Manager identifies, evaluates and authorises the release of any potential product affected by the pests. The Field Biologist reviews the log each quarter to identify trends in pest activity. A report of findings is submitted to the Quality Assurance Manager for review.

The pest control contractor provides reports for all visits and advises on any trends and corrective actions. Department Managers are allocated corrective or preventative actions which must be completed within the agreed timescale.

Verification of Pest Control Activities

The Quality Assurance department and line management are required to conduct documented audits including pest control throughout the site at monthly intervals. Monthly Hygiene and housekeeping audits include inspection for signs of pest activity and also any pest proofing issues requiring attention. Pest Control activities are also verified by quarterly field biologist inspection reports.

The Quality Assurance Manager regularly reviews the results of pest control inspections in order to assess and analyse trends and consider the need for further prevention measure or corrective actions. This review is carried out as a minimum annually but also in the event of an infestation.

Responsibility

The Quality Assurance Manager is responsible for managing Pest Control on site, liaison with the Pest Control Contractor and maintenance of the Pest Control File.

References

Pest Control File