



QM 12.2.9 Management of Pests and Vermin

Introduction

The company has established, documented and implemented a pest control system for the site, which is maintained as part of the prerequisite programmes in order to meet the requirements of the Food Safety Quality Management System and ensure the safe production of products.

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 management system is effectively implemented. This procedure is used in conjunction with written Prerequisites 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 and Control of Product Handling and Storage Areas. Waste is managed as per procedures QM 12.7 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

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Authorised By: General Manager





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All personnel are trained to avoid contact with pest control devices and materials and that only authorised personnel are permitted to handle pesticides at induction. Personnel are required to inform management immediately if such contact is made and then take the appropriate hand washing and change of protective work wear measures. All personnel are trained to identify potential issues caused by pests at induction. A pest

control reporting procedure is in place such that any incident or sign of pest activity is immediately reported to the Quality Assurance Manager and any potential product affected is quarantined. The Quality Assurance Manager maintains a log of pest sightings and the action taken by the pest controller.

The log is maintained in the pest control file and includes:

- Date
- Time
- Type of pests observed
- 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

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