

Animal Welfare Act 1993

Exemption to use glueboard traps

In accordance with Section 12(3) of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, I, David Llewellyn, Minister, grant an exemption to the persons in Schedule 1 to use glueboard traps for the purposes of rodent control, in accordance with the conditions in Schedule 2.

Signed..........Minister

Date.....31/10/08.....

Schedule 1

All persons licensed as commercial operators under section 22 of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995*

Schedule 2

Use of glueboard traps for rodent control must be in accordance with the Australian environmental pest Managers' Association's Guidelines for the Use of Rodent Glueboards in Australia by the Pest Management Industry.

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF RODENT GLUEBOARDS IN AUSTRALIA BY THE PEST MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY

Background

Pest management technicians are licensed by State government departments throughout Australia. The units of competency studied to obtain a licence require an understanding of rodent identification, behaviour and management. Glueboards are one of the tools used by pest management technicians to monitor for insect and rodent activity and to control infestations. Glueboards are a necessary tool to maintain the high standards of public health in Australia. The presence of one rodent may be a health threat to many people.

Animal welfare authorities and organizations are concerned about the use of glueboards in two areas: the potential trapping of non-target animals; and the stress that any animals, including rodents, caught on glueboards may suffer.

The benefits of glueboards:

- Glueboards are seen as 'green' because they do not contain pesticides.
- The rodent is contained on the trap and cannot contaminate product nor die in an inaccessible area.
- Glueboards are ideal for monitoring rodent activity. [don't see reason to mention insects]
- Glueboards are cheap, easy to handle, install, monitor and replace.
- Glueboards may catch rodents that avoid other methods of control.
- In some situations, glueboards are the only suitable method of control.

The distribution of glueboards in Australia is not regulated. They are available through discount stores, supermarkets, health food shops, produce and hardware stores and pest management industry distributors to the general public, to the rural sector (including organic produce growers) and to licensed pest management technicians.

These guidelines have been developed to minimize the risk of non-target animals encountering glueboards and to reduce the trauma on pest rodents caught on glueboards used by the pest management industry.

Guidelines

1 Glueboards may only be used as part of a documented Integrated Rodent Management Program (IRMP). An IRMP will include an inspection, identification of any species found and implementation of a single or combination of methods of control, including sanitation, exclusion, trapping or use of rodenticides, depending on the circumstances. A strategy of using multiple methods in combination is often more efficient than using single control methods one after the other. Using glueboards with other methods of control decreases the number of rodents caught on glueboards compared to using glueboards only.

- 2 Glueboards must not be accessible to non-target animals and should not be used in exposed or outdoor areas unless placed in a tamper-proof container or station.
- 3 Use of glueboards for monitoring – glueboards are a valuable tool to detect rodent activity where it is not normally expected. They are often inspected at monthly to bi-monthly intervals with the expectation that other methods of management are sufficient to stop rodent access to these areas. If rodent activity is detected, the method of entry should be investigated and outer defences reinforced. All placements of glueboards must be recorded.
- 4 Use of glueboards for control – glueboards must be inspected daily when an infestation is known or may be expected in a location. This must be undertaken by the pest management technician or someone trained in humane despatch of live rodents caught on glueboards. The person must have access to the record of placements and all glueboards in the area of infestation must be inspected.
- 5 If there is an expectation that rats may be caught on glueboards, the glueboards should be secured in place to prevent the rat from moving the board.
- 6 Any live rodents found on glueboards must be quickly and humanely despatched. Dislocation of the neck or a sharp blow with a heavy object (eg mallet or tomahawk) behind the head to break the backbone (cover the board and rodent to prevent blood splatter) are suitable methods. Drowning is not an acceptable method of despatch.
- 7 The sticky surface of used glueboards should be covered prior to disposal to avoid accidental trapping of non-target animals.
- 8 If a non-target animal is trapped, soak the area with vegetable oil to release the animal.