

The burial of rodents poisoned on farmland

If you comply with the requirements below, we will allow the burial of rodents poisoned on farmland.

Background

The bodies of vermin poisoned by routine baiting should be disposed of without delay to prevent contact with other wildlife. We originally agreed that farmers and gamekeepers could dispose of the bodies on site. We have now extended this position to include individuals acting as pest controllers and small pest control businesses. When a rodent control company is employed for routine or larger scale extermination, we expect its employees to gather and remove the carcasses off farm for suitably authorised incineration or landfill.

Our position

We will not pursue an application for an environmental permit for the activity where:

- Small numbers of poisoned rodents are buried on farmland by farmers, gamekeepers or pest control operatives and this is done without delay.
- The burial site:
 - is at least 250 metres away from any well, borehole or spring that supplies water for human consumption or to be used in farm dairies
 - is at least 30 metres from any other spring or watercourse, and at least 10 metres from any field drain
 - has at least one metre of subsoil below the bottom of the burial pit, allowing a hole deep enough for at least one metre of soil to cover the carcass
 - when first dug, is free of standing water at the bottom of the hole.

The activity is managed through the monitoring and feedback system developed by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health which assesses the risks and benefits of the scheme.

- You meet the relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive; '... ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment and in particular:

- (i) without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals;
- (ii) without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and
- (iii) without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a permit, this means we will not normally take enforcement action unless the activity has caused, or is likely to cause, pollution or harm to health. For a more detailed explanation of this enforcement position, please refer to our **Enforcement and Sanctions Statement**. This document can be found on the 'How we regulate you' page in the Business & Industry section of our web site.

This regulatory position will be reviewed by 31 March 2013.

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