



Requirements for Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

What is happening?

In response to wildlife poisoning from certain rodenticides, the Ministry of Environment and Parks amended the Integrated Pest Management Regulation to restrict the use and sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs).

Effective Jan. 21, 2023, rodenticides containing the active ingredients **brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone** are restricted to authorized essential services only. This includes agricultural operators. A complete list of agricultural essential services is included at the end of this document (Schedule A).

To use SGARs, agricultural operators now require both a pesticide applicator certificate and pesticide use licence. Agricultural operators may only use SGARs as a part of an Integrated Pest Management program.

What is the issue?

Wildlife may become poisoned by eating rodenticides (primary poisoning) or through eating rodents that have consumed rodenticides (secondary poisoning).

Compared to other rodenticides, SGARs are highly toxic and are retained longer in the body tissues of rodents that consume them. Birds of prey (e.g., owls, hawks, eagles) and other predators or scavengers of rodents are especially at risk of secondary poisoning from SGARs.

What are the new requirements?

Restrictions for Purchase and Use

- SGARs may ONLY be purchased and used by:
 - Licensed essential services (including agricultural operators)
 - Licensed pest control companies assisting essential services

Key Points

- ▶ Most commercial and residential uses of SGARs are now prohibited.
- ▶ To protect public health, food supply and critical infrastructure, limited SGAR use is allowed by certain essential services. This includes agricultural operators.
- ▶ A licence and certificate are now required to use SGARs.
- ▶ When purchasing SGARs, agricultural operators must demonstrate they are authorized to use SGARs.
- ▶ SGARs may only be used as part of a documented, site-specific Integrated Pest Management program.
- ▶ SGARs can only be used for short-term baiting cycles.
- ▶ Agricultural operators must keep records for each SGAR use and submit annual reports to the ministry.
- ▶ Agricultural operators using SGARs must ensure unused bait and dead rodents are properly disposed of.

Certification and Licensing Requirements

- Agricultural operators using SGARs must obtain both a pesticide applicator certificate and a pesticide use licence from the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks.
- A pesticide applicator certificate must be obtained in one of the following four categories:
 - Structural
 - Agriculture – General (Field Crop and Orchard Production)
 - Agriculture – General (Greenhouse Production)
 - Rodent Management in Agriculture

Please note: A pesticide applicator certificate must be obtained before applying for a pesticide user non-service licence.

- A detailed table outlining how to obtain these requirements is provided at the end of this document (Schedule B).
- Agricultural operators who would like to continue to use SGARs as a part of their rodent management program, but who do not wish to obtain a pesticide applicator certificate or pesticide licence, may hire a licensed pest control company to apply SGARs on their behalf. A searchable, database of licensed pest control companies offering services in B.C. is available [here](#).

Restrictions for Purchase of SGARs

- Only the pesticide licence holder (licensee) is permitted to purchase SGARs. Agents or employees are no longer permitted to purchase SGARS on behalf of the licensee.
- At the point of purchase, the licensee must present:
 - their valid pesticide non-service user licence;
 - either their own pesticide applicator certificate or provide the name and certificate number of the pesticide applicator certificate holder employed by agricultural operation who will use the SGAR; and
 - one of the following to demonstrate proof of agricultural status:
 - ▶ Farmer ID Card;
 - ▶ PST Exemption Certificate for Farmers;
 - ▶ AgriStability Statement;
 - ▶ AgriInvest Statement; or
 - ▶ B.C. Property Assessment Notice (showing proof of farm status).

New Requirements when Using SGARs

- SGARs must only be used for short-term baiting cycles. Long-term baiting with SGARs is no longer permitted.
 - A baiting cycle cannot exceed 35 consecutive days.
 - Multiple baiting cycles can be used, as long as the total number of days does not exceed 120 days in a year.
- Preventative baiting (i.e., baiting without recent signs of rodent activity) is prohibited.
- All licensees are required to develop and follow a site-specific Rodent Management Plan. This plan must be documented and kept but it does not need to be submitted to the ministry unless requested. A template with the required information is provided on the [ministry website](#).
- A licensee may only use SGARs while following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This means SGARs may only be used when:
 - Measures to prevent rodents have been implemented;
 - Alternative rodent control methods, such as traps, have been implemented;
 - Rodent species have been identified;
 - Rodent populations have been monitored;
 - Injury thresholds have been applied; and
 - Effectiveness of previous SGAR applications have been evaluated.
- These IPM steps are described in detail in the guidance document [Rodent IPM: Best Management Practices for Agricultural Operations](#).
- Unused bait and dead rodents must be properly disposed of. Learn more about proper disposal by reading the pesticide label and the guidance document [Best Management Practices: Disposal of Rodenticides](#).

Record Keeping

- All licensees must **keep daily pesticide use records** when SGARs are used.
 - These daily use records must be kept for three years, but do not have to be submitted to the ministry unless requested.
- The following information must be recorded:
 - Name and address of the owner or manager of the treatment location
 - Name and certificate number of the pesticide applicator using the SGARS
 - Date and time of the pesticide use
 - Name of the target pest (for example, rat or mouse)
 - Pesticide trade name and registration number

- Application method, application rate and total amount applied
- IPM requirements that have been implemented to prevent and manage rodents including:
 - ▶ monitoring data including species identification and rodent populations
 - ▶ prevention measures used
 - ▶ alternative control methods used
 - ▶ application of injury thresholds
 - ▶ evaluation of previous controls used
- Date when SGARs have been removed from the area where rodents are being managed
- An annual use summary of the total quantities of pesticides applied must be submitted to the ministry each calendar year.
 - If SGARs were purchased online during the year, the Annual Use Summary must also include the name of the company or business where SGARs were purchased.
- New record keeping templates for agricultural operators using SGARs are available on the [ministry website](#).

Managing Rodents without SGARs

- For information on how to manage rodents without SGARS, or for ideas on developing or improving your existing rodent management plan, see guidance on the [ministry website](#).

Schedule A: Agricultural Essential Services

Agricultural operators are those working in the following agricultural and food locations:

INCLUDED: Agriculture and food locations where SGARS may be used

1. The following are agricultural uses for the purposes of the definition of "qualifying agricultural use" as defined in the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation:
 - ▶ apiculture
 - ▶ Christmas tree culture (plantation and cultured native stand)
 - ▶ management of *Betula* (birch) and *Acer* (maple) species to produce sap or syrup
 - ▶ floriculture
 - ▶ forage production
 - ▶ forest seedling and seed production
 - ▶ fruit and vegetable production
 - ▶ grain and oilseed production
 - ▶ herb production
 - ▶ horticulture
 - ▶ intense cultivation of plantations of trees from the *Populus* (poplar) or *Salix* (willow) species
 - ▶ livestock raising
 - ▶ medicinal plant culture
 - ▶ raising insects for biological pest control
 - ▶ raising crops for food for human or animal consumption
 - ▶ seed production
 - ▶ turf production
2. Aquaculture operations.
3. Facilities for food production, processing, storage and transportation.
4. Grocery stores, convenience stores, food banks and other places engaged in the provision or retail sale of food. This does not include vending machines or stores that primarily sell beverages, pet food, cannabis, liquor or snacks.

EXCLUDED: Agriculture and food locations where SGARS may **NOT** be used

1. The production of qualifying agricultural products for domestic consumption on the farm.
2. The production of agricultural by-products other than breeding products.
3. Agricultural services other than horse stud services.
4. The breeding and raising of pets other than horses.
5. The production of any substance set out in item 1 [opium poppy] or 2 [coca] of the Schedule to the Narcotic Control Regulations under the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#) (Canada).
6. The production of any of the following, other than the production of industrial hemp in accordance with the Industrial Hemp Regulations under the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#) (Canada).
 - (i) cannabis within the meaning of the [Cannabis Control and Licensing Act](#), whether or not the cannabis is medical cannabis within the meaning of that act;
 - (ii) a substance or product derived or produced from a cannabis plant within the meaning of the [Cannabis Control and Licensing Act](#).

Schedule B: Certificate and Licence Requirements

Requirement needed	How to obtain the requirement	Cost	Length of Term
<p>Pesticide Applicator Certificate in any of the four categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structural 2. Agriculture – General (Field Crop and Orchard Production) 3. Agriculture – General (Greenhouse Production) 4. Rodent Management in Agriculture 	<p>To obtain a pesticide applicator certificate, applicants may obtain study materials and then must pass an exam.</p> <p>To prepare for the exam, applicants can self-study or take a course through an independent trainer. A list of independent trainers is available here.</p> <p>Study materials can be purchased online through Crown Publications.</p> <p>Exams can be written at various locations provincewide. Contact Service B.C. to book an exam: 1.866.205.2102</p> <p>More detailed information on exam bookings and writing exams can be found here.</p> <p>Exams are open book.</p> <p>Exam results and certificates are mailed to applicants within 3 weeks of taking the exam.</p>	<p>\$90 to write the exam.</p> <p>Cost of study materials varies, depending on the category.</p>	<p>A pesticide applicator certificate is valid for one or five years, depending on the exam score achieved.</p> <p>Exams with a score of 75% or above result in a certificate term of 5 years.</p> <p>Exams with a score between 60%-74% result in a certificate term of 1 year.</p> <p>Exams with a score of 59% and below do not result in a certificate.</p>
<p>Pesticide User Non-Service Licence</p>	<p>No exam is required to apply for a licence.</p> <p>To apply for a pesticide licence, an applicant will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid pesticide applicator certificate, or employ a person with a pesticide applicator certificate, in the appropriate category. • The applicant’s business to be in good standing, if it is registered with the BC Registrar of Companies. <p>A completed application and payment can be dropped off in person at the nearest Service BC Centre or emailed to applications.sbc@gov.bc.ca.</p>	<p>\$250 annually</p>	<p>1 year</p>