

Conducting IPM In-Between Baiting Cycles of SGAR Use

Introduction

Explanatory Notes are intended to clarify requirements of the Integrated Pest Management Regulation (IPMR) for people using pesticides in B.C. Readers should refer to the IPMR directly to fully understand their legal obligations, as inspectors rely on the regulation when assessing compliance.

The IPMR states that second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) can only be used by licensed applicators for essential services, and only as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Applicators must limit SGAR use to 35 consecutive days per baiting cycle, with a maximum of 120 total days per year.

This document clarifies the requirement for conducting IPM regarding baiting cycles with SGAR use to help applicators understand this requirement.

Reasons for Requirement

The purpose of this requirement is to minimize unnecessary use of SGARs by preventing rodents in the first place and addressing pest issues with non-chemical methods. This approach helps protect non-target wildlife and the environment by limiting rodenticide use.

Short-term baiting cycles with SGARs are intended to provide essential services with a tool when absolutely necessary for quickly reducing rodent populations to manageable levels. Once this is achieved, the focus shifts to prevention, allowing the IPM program to maintain control through long-term strategies.

This requirement reinforces sustainable IPM practices that emphasize long-term solutions, such as sealing entry points, improving sanitation, and reducing attractants, rather than continuous reliance on rodenticides. It also supports the use of safer alternatives, such as trapping and lower-risk pesticides, to further reduce harm to wildlife and the environment.

Relevant Sections of IPMR

The following sections of the IPMR concern IPM and baiting cycles when using SGARs:

35 (6): *A licensee who uses an SGAR must keep a record containing the following information:*

(b) *Measures that were taken to comply with the requirements set out in section 68 (1) (a).*

Key Points:

- ➔ SGARs are rodenticides that contain the active ingredients brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone.
- ➔ SGARs can only be used by licensed applicators for essential services, and only under IPM principles.
- ➔ Applicators must limit SGAR use to 35-day baiting cycles.
- ➔ Multiple baiting cycles may be used within a year, provided that the combined total does not exceed 120 days.
- ➔ After the 35-day cycle ends, all SGAR products must be removed from the treatment site.
- ➔ After each baiting cycle, licensees must attempt to resolve further rodent issues with prevention and alternative methods before initiating a new SGAR baiting cycle.
- ➔ IPM is an ongoing process that requires flexibility and adaptation to changing needs.

Conducting IPM in-Between Baiting Cycles of SGAR Use

68 (1): Except as provided in section 7 (1) [licence requirement exemptions], a licensee may use a pesticide only after doing all the following in accordance with integrated pest management principles:

(a) Identify and implement, or identify and advise the owner, occupant or manager of the treatment area of, reasonable measures to prevent pests.

81 (5): A licensee must not do any of the following:

(c) Use an SGAR at a treatment site unless practical alternatives to the use of an SGAR have been implemented and have not been effective in relation to the management of rodents;

(d) Use an SGAR at a treatment site unless the licensee ensures that the owner, occupant or manager has implemented the measures described in section 68 (1) (a), if the licensee is not personally implementing those measures.

(e) use an SGAR at a treatment site for more than 35 consecutive days;

(f) use an SGAR at a treatment site for more than 120 days in a year;

Understanding the Requirement

After each SGAR baiting cycle concludes, licensees must reassess the site for continuing rodent issues and reset the IPM process before initiating another baiting cycle. This reset is a crucial step to evaluate the effectiveness of previous actions, identify any missed prevention opportunities, and refine strategies for future rodent management.

Following a baiting cycle, licensees must begin with a renewed focus on prevention. Licensees must identify and implement outstanding prevention opportunities. If monitoring efforts identify persistent rodent issues, licensees must once again prioritize non-chemical control measures before considering SGAR use. Only after completing the full IPM process and implementing all reasonable prevention and alternative control methods can licensees consider initiating a new SGAR baiting cycle.

It's important to note that prevention goes beyond exclusion (sealing entry points). It encompasses a variety of strategies to prevent rodent infestations effectively. For detailed guidance on prevention techniques and practical tips, refer to [Integrated Pest Management for Rodents: A Guide for Residents](#).

The end of each baiting cycle is also the perfect opportunity to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the entire IPM program. Licensees must review and update the Rodent Management Plan, integrating lessons learned and addressing any gaps in previous efforts. Remember, IPM is an ongoing process of continual improvement that requires flexibility and adjustments based on changing site conditions.

Licensees must document complete and accurate records of all measures taken to prevent rodents and be prepared to provide records for compliance verification purposes in the case of an inspection.

Additional Sources of Information

Explanatory Note: Prevention Measures When Using SGARs

For more information about the regulation, prevention tips and appropriate use of rodenticides in B.C., please visit www.gov.bc.ca/RodentIPM or email BC.IPM@gov.bc.ca.