Guide for listed hunters

Human consumption

May 2026

DISCLAIMER

While the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has made every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is complete, MPI is not liable for loss resulting from reliance on the guide or any errors or omissions in it.
This guide is not legal advice.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

New Zealand Food Safety
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Contents

	Page
Background	**4**
Purpose	4
Who can supply killed hunted animals	4
Which animals can you supply	5
Food safety rules you must follow	5
Before you start supplying hunted animals	**8**
Listing	8
Operations Manual	11
During the hunt	**14**
Visible Signs of Disease or Illness	14
Identification of hunted animals	15
Hygiene and sanitation	16
Handling and presentation of carcasses	21
Places you cannot hunt	**22**
Poisons and poison residues	22
Information you must provide	**27**
Hunt and kill location information	27
Supplier Declarations	29
Poison use statements and DOC pesticide summaries	31
Verification	**35**
Processor verification	35
External Verification	35
Enforcement	**36**
MPI Surveillance List	36

Suspension of Listing 36

Withdrawal of Listing 37

Prosecution 38

Appendix 1: Glossary 39

Appendix 2: Poisons: Active substances in trade name products 45

Background

Purpose

This guide explains the legal requirements (rules) under the Animal Products Act 1999 that you must follow if you are a commercial hunter and want to supply hunted animals to a registered meat processor for human consumption.

The rules exist to ensure that the meat is safe for humans to eat. They also provide assurances for our trading partners that we export meat to.

The guide explains what you need to do

- Before you start supplying hunted animals
- During the hunt
- Places you cannot hunt
- Information you must provide
- Verification and Enforcement

NOTE If you want to supply hunted animals for petfood, you should contact the NZ Petfood Association to get a copy of the training booklet "Harvesting Hunted Animals for Petfood", as the rules for petfood are slightly different.

NOTE If you want to supply possums for human consumption, please send an email to animal.products@mpi.govt.nz for specific requirements (e.g. the possums must be supplied live to the processor).

Who can supply killed hunted animals

You must be listed as a hunter (known as a listed hunter) with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to commercially supply killed hunted animals to a registered meat processor. Before you can be listed, you must pass a food safety test which is administered by MPI (see Food Safety Test).

You must also have an Operations Manual that has been agreed with the meat processor you will supply (see Operations Manual).

A meat processor is under no obligation to accept hunted animals from a listed hunter.

Which animals can you supply

The animals that you can supply are:

- wild mammals
- game estate animals
- farmed mammals that have become feral.

They are referred to as **hunted animals** in this guide. Unless specified, the rules apply to all hunted animals.

Food safety rules you must follow

The food safety rules are in place to manage the Food safety risks associated with the consumption of meat and offal from hunted animals.

The rules you must meet include:

- passing a food safety test with MPI
- developing an Operations Manual that has been agreed with the meat processors you supply
- list with MPI
- hunting animals outside poison buffer zones and caution periods
- ensuring the animals are visibly healthy
- not killing using poisons or other chemicals
- evisceration and handling requirements
- cooling and transportation requirements

As a listed hunter, it is your responsibility to ensure that you follow the rules.

Food safety risks

There are three main food safety risks associate with hunted animals. These are:

- Microbiological risks

- Chemical (e.g. poison residue) contamination
- Physical contamination

Microbiological risks

This includes microbiological risks from sick or injured animals or carcasses that aren't handled correctly. For example,

- Unhygienic practices during field dressing
- Cross-contamination e.g. if the gut is punctured and the content leaks
- Incorrect handling after dressing including insufficient refrigeration of the carcass.

Chemical contamination

Chemical contamination can be caused by

- the hunted animal eating poisons used for pest control
- secondary poisoning such as wild pigs scavenging on poisoned carcasses of animals that have eaten poison.
- contamination of the carcass with chemicals or poisons, e.g. while transporting the carcass home in a vehicle that is also used to carry fuel or chemicals used for weed control etc.

Physical contamination

Physical contamination could be stones, shotgun pellets, etc.

Compliance

There are requirements in place to check that you are following the rules, these include:

- Supplier Declarations
- Poison use statements and DOC pesticide summaries
- Hunt and kill location information
- Verification

Enforcement

There are also enforcement actions that can be taken if the rules are not followed (see Enforcement).

Before you start supplying hunted animals

Before you can start supplying hunted animals for processing, you must

- be listed with MPI, and
- have an Operations Manual. The Operations Manual must be agreed with the meat processor that you wish to supply.

Listing

To become a listed hunter, you must first pass a Food Safety Test and apply to MPI to be listed. The steps for getting listed are shown in Figure 1 Listing process.

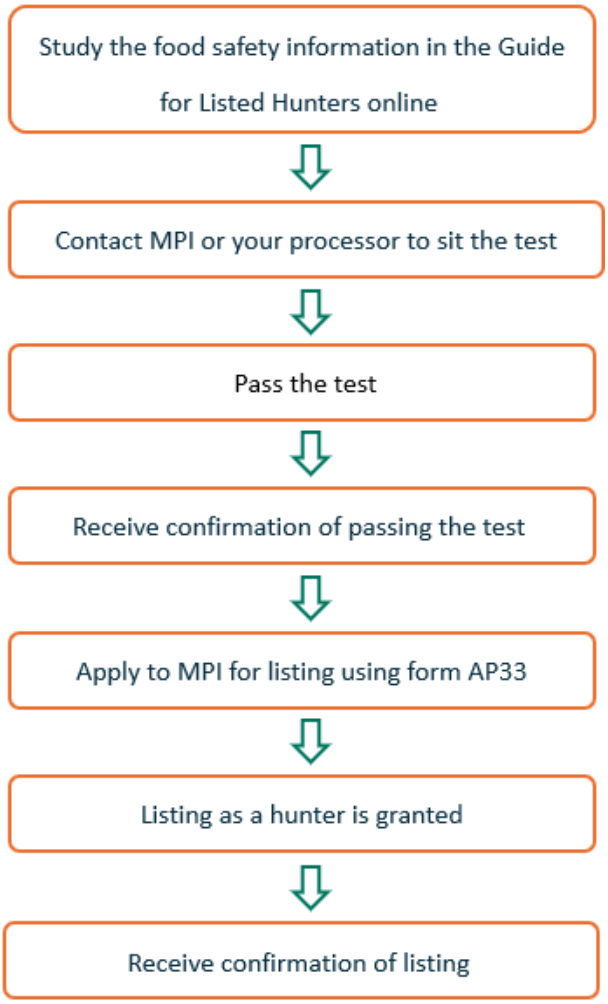

Figure 1 Listing process

Food Safety Test

The food safety test is made up of multi-choice and true/false questions based on the contents of this guide.

The questions may cover:

- poison use, buffer zones and caution periods;
- provision of GPS data and kill location;
- use of topographical maps and kill location;
- recognition of animals that appear healthy and are suitable for human consumption;
- procurement from game estates;
- sanitary and hygiene requirements for gutting, handling and storage;
- use of chemicals;
- transportation of carcasses;
- collection and completion of Poison Use Statements;
- Department of Conservation (DOC) pesticide summaries;
- documentation to be submitted to the processor.

The food safety test is administered by MPI's Verification Services team. If you want to sit the test you can send an email to vstechnicalteam@mpi.govt.nz or talk to your meat processor (see section on Fees).

You will be sent a link to the test, which is completed online. You have one hour to complete the test, and you can use this guide during the exam.

When you have passed the food safety test, you will be sent an email confirming the test results.

Applying for Listing

Once you have passed the food safety test, you can apply to MPI to be listed as a hunter (see section on Fees).

Application process:

- Fill out the Application Form AP33. Listing as a Hunter (PDF). You can download the form from the MPI website (mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1136)
- Send the completed application form, proof of payment, and verification certificate confirming that you have passed the food safety test to approvals@mpi.govt.nz.
- You must apply for listing no later than 3 months after passing the food safety test.

Listing

Once your application is processed, you will be notified in writing of your MPI ID number and will be listed as a hunter on the Food Safety Business Register on the MPI website (mpi.my.site.com/publicregister/s/RiskMeasureSearch). The information that will be listed is:

- your name;
- your MPI ID number;
- The scope of listing (wild animals and game estate animals);
- Effective date of the listing
- Expiry date of the listing.

Renewal of Listing

To keep your listing active, you must re-sit the food safety test and renew your listing every 3 years. This ensure that you stay up to date with any rule changes.

To renew your listing:

- Complete and pass the food safety test again. Once you have passed the test, you have 3 months to apply for relisting.
- Send the completed application form, proof of payment, and verification certificate confirming that you have passed the food safety test to approvals@mpi.govt.nz.

You will receive a reminder email before your listing expires.

If you don't review your listing, it will expire and your listing will be delisted.

Fees

MPI charges:

- a fee for sitting the food safety test
- a listing fee for the AP33 application.

The fee for food safety test, or a re-sit fee following a failed test, is charged out based on the time involved for MPI to supervise the test. The fee should be discussed with MPI's Verification Services when arranging the test. At the time of publication, the cost to sit the food safety test was approximately $230.

The application fee, which is stated in the AP33 application form, must be paid when applying to MPI Approvals for listing or renewal of the listing. At the time of publication, the cost to be listed for three years was $155.25.

Surrender of Listing

If you no longer want to be listed with MPI, you can surrender your listing by sending an email to MPI at approvals@mpi.govt.nz. Fees paid will not be refunded.

Operations Manual

An Operations Manual is a written agreement between you and the meat processor. The Operations Manual shows how you will meet food safety requirements and must have information about where, when and how you will hunt and handle the animals that you want to supply.

It is it your responsibility to have an Operations Manual. You can either create the manual yourself or the processor you supply to will provide you with their version for you to use.

Operations Manual Template

If you are creating your own we have developed a Operations Manual template to assist you in meeting the requirements. You can add additional information to this template if this has been agreed with the processor.

You can find the Operations Manual template (PDF) on the MPI website: mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/70160

If you have an existing Operations Manual that has been agreed with your processor you can continue to use it.

Purpose and content

The manual outlines how you hunt and send carcasses for processing. It must:

- be tailored to your specific operations.
- align with the processor's procedures.
- be agreed upon in writing before any animals can be sent for processing.

Responsibilities

You are responsible for ensuring that is accurate, up to date, and followed for every consignment.

Writing your Operations Manual

Before you start writing your manual, contact your processor to ensure your manual will match their procedures.

Contents of the Operations Manual

The Operations Manual must contain the following information:

- your listing identifier (MPI ID Number)
- your name and contact details

- identification details of the main vehicles (including aircraft) used in the hunting operation
- the system used to identify carcasses (see Identification of hunted animals).
- the system used to identify the kill location (see Hunt and kill location)
- procedures for the hygienic dressing, handling, storage and transportation of carcasses (see Hygiene and Sanitation)
- identification details for any animal material depot to be used (see Use of animal material depots)
- any areas of land where the hunter can provide the kill location as a topographical map grid reference instead of providing GPS data.

Amendments and Updates

If you want to make any changes to the manual, the meat processor must approve the changes **before** the changes are implemented, unless urgent changes are needed for food or operational safety.

You must keep

- a record of all amendments, including dates and a description of the changes. This record must match the processor's records.
- You must keep a copy of outdated manuals for **1 year** (the hunter). The meat processor must keep a copy for **4 years**.

Review and Reconfirmation

The meat processor must review and confirm that your manual meets the regulatory requirements **at least every 3 years** from the date you first send hunted animals for processing. The processor must keep a copy of the review.

During the hunt

All animals that you kill and send for processing must be handled to ensure the meat is safe to eat.

Risk management steps during the hunt include

- Identification of hunted animals
- Hygiene and Saniation
- Handling and presentation of carcasses

This section also includes the requirements that apply for Use of animal material depots

You must handle carcasses to prevent microbiological, chemical or physical contamination. When you gut carcasses, you must take care to prevent intestinal content from contaminating the rest of the carcasses. You must meet the Cooling requirement to help prevent spoilage.

Visible Signs of Disease or Illness

Before being killed, animals must have no visible signs of being sick or dying.

Only visibly healthy animals that have been killed by you, or under your direct supervision, can be send for processing.

Animals must not be killed using poisons or other chemical substances.

WHAT IS DIRECT SUPERVISION?
"Direct supervision" is defined as supervising any function, operation or activity in sufficient close physical proximity to ensure that any relevant specifications are met (i.e. that they are able to observe the person performing all procurement activities). For example, a helicopter pilot cannot be the only listed hunter present during a hunt, because they would be unable to supervise all activities.

Identification of hunted animals

You must identify each carcass or group of carcasses. This allows the processor to link each carcass to its kill location and the corresponding supplier declaration. The identification must align with the information in the supplier declaration.

Each carcass must be identified individually except for 1) rabbits, hares and wallabies or 2) game estate animals, which can be identified in groups in some instances (see Identification of animals in groups).

When to identify the carcasses

You can identify the carcasses using tags or any other method.

You should identify the carcass at the location where it comes to rest immediately after it is killed, i.e. when you record the kill location. This is to ensure that the carcass can be linked to the kill location and to prevent any mix ups between carcasses.

Identification of animals in groups

Identification of rabbits, hares and wallabies in groups

You can identify rabbits, hares and wallabies by group if

- the kill location is identified by topographical map, and this is specified in your Operations Manual.
- the land on which the animals were killed is covered by a single poison use statement or DOC pesticide summary.
- the animals were killed on the same day by you, or under your direct supervision.
- the animals were bled, eviscerated and handled by you or under your direct supervision.

Identification of game estates animals in groups

You can identify game estate animals by group, if

- the land on which the animals were killed is covered by a single poison use statement or DOC pesticide summary.

- the animals were killed on the same day by you, or under your direct supervision
- the animals were bled, eviscerated and handled by you or under your direct supervision.

Use of animal material depots

If you use an animal material depot (AMD) or a mobile AMD, you must ensure that the AMD is listed with MPI.

You can only use an animal material depot to

- store carcasses
- refrigerate carcasses (do not freeze)

Mobile AMDs

If you use a mobile AMD

- you must ensure that it chills but does not freeze the carcasses.
- the operator of the mobile AMD must provide records to the meat processor of temperature measured while the carcasses were stored in the mobile AMD.

NOTE Some overseas markets do not allow the use of mobile AMDs.

If there is a refrigeration failure, inform the processor who may seek advice from MPI.

Hygiene and sanitation

Shooting

Where at all possible, gut shots should be avoided, as these can result in damage to the digestive tract and considerable contamination of the carcass. Non-fragmental ammunition (i.e. ammunition that does not break up on impact) should be used as this minimises:

- the risk of bullet fragments remaining in the product; and
- the degree of damage to the carcass and subsequent down grading of product.

The use of shotguns is strongly discouraged because they can cause significant damage to the carcass, leading to extensive trimming, downgrading to animal consumption or

condemning of the carcass. Animals killed with shotguns can be harder to process, often requiring extensive trimming and resulting in substantial waste.

The use of lead-based ammunition is discouraged due to the potential risk of lead residues in the meat and general concerns about lead in the environment. Meat from hunted animals is subject to lead monitoring by MPI. If product is found to contain lead at levels above the acceptable regulatory levels, MPI will investigate the issue. This may include the product being recalled and deemed unfit for human consumption.

Bleeding

Animals must be bled as soon as possible after killing.

When bleeding animals it is important that the major blood vessels in the neck are opened. If animals are not adequately bled or bleeding is delayed, it may result in:

- spoilage of the animal due to increased risk of microbiological growth in the meat; and
- dark colouring, making it unsuitable for processing.

If there is pooling of blood in the chest cavity, this should be drained out when the pluck is freed, if you can.

Evisceration

Evisceration of hunted animals other than rabbits, hares and wallabies

Evisceration of the animal must be done hygienically and with unnecessary delay, after the animal has been bled.

Evisceration must be done by you, or under your direct supervision.

- First, open up the skin by cutting outwards away from the carcass so hair is not left on the underlying tissue.
- open the abdomen with a cut extending from the navel to the front of the aitch bone (pelvis).

- if possible, wash hands and knife with clean water, before opening the abdominal muscle.
- cut into the abdominal muscle taking care not to puncture the paunch/stomach, intestines, bladder or uterus (especially if pregnant) avoiding spillage of content.
- keep opening cuts as small as possible, while still allowing the evisceration process to be carried out easily.
- avoid excessive cuts into the pelvic muscle as this may result in gapping of the muscle increasing the risk of contamination.
- remove **only**:
    - the paunch/stomach and intestine including the bung (rectum and anus),
    - the bladder and
    - the reproductive organs.
- leave the kidneys, heart, lungs and liver attached to the carcass. This can be done by
    - leaving them in situ, or
    - by freeing them but leaving them attached to the pluck (heart, lung and liver).
- clear the weasand (windpipe and oesophagus) at the thoracic opening (neck/chest) and pull through with the pluck. The partially freed pluck may then be hung on the outside of the carcass allowing quicker cooling of the chest cavity.
- clean hands and knife when they become heavily contaminated, preferably in clean running water.

Evisceration of rabbits, hares and wallabies

- first, open up the skin by cutting outwards away from the carcass so hair is not left on the underlying tissue.
- open the abdomen with a cut extending from the navel to the front of the aitch bone (pelvis).
- if possible, wash hands and knife with clean water, before opening the abdominal muscle.

- keep opening cuts as small as possible, while still allowing the evisceration process to be carried out easily.
- hygienically remove only the gastrointestinal organs: the paunch/stomach and intestine including the bung (rectum and anus).
- Leave the kidney, heart, lungs and liver attached to the carcass. This can be done by either leaving them in situ, or by freeing them but leaving them attached to the pluck (heart, lung and liver).
- Clean hands and knife when they become heavily contaminated, preferably in clean running water.

Washing

Carcasses must not be washed. This is because water can spread contamination across the carcass. The washing step will also make the surface damp, which can increase bacterial growth and cause the meat to spoil faster.

Skin and Head

You must leave the skin (hide) on the carcass as this protects the carcass from contamination.

The head should remain attached to the carcass. If the head is removed (e.g. for ease of transport), the head must be positively identified with the carcass.

The ears must remain attached to the skin on the carcass.

When dressing the head and throat area, take care not to remove the head glands, as these are required for post-mortem examination.

There are 2 exceptions to the above:

- you can remove the skin from the shoulder to the head from **game estate animals** (‘caping’ to produce a trophy head). If you choose to do so, you must protect the carcass from contamination.
- You can remove the head from **sheep and goats**, but the ears must remain attached to the carcass. This is to show that the animals have not been farmed.

Cooling

You must ensure that the carcasses are cooled as quickly and effectively as possible, before they are delivered to the meat processor. This is important to stop bacteria from growing, which can spoil the meat and make people sick.

To minimise microbial growth, the carcasses should be kept at temperatures between 0°C and 7°C.

Do not leave carcasses laying in the sun prior to delivery for processing as this can result in the carcass warming up, especially in summer. Also, this can attract flies and results in fly blown carcasses. You cannot use fly spray on carcasses as this will affect the suitability of the carcasses for processing.

Carcasses must not be frozen.

Cooling of hunted animals other than rabbits, hares and wallabies

Carcasses from animals other than **other than rabbits, hares and wallabies**, must be

- delivered to the meat processing within 24 hours of the animals being killed; or
- delivered to an animal material depot (AMD) within 10 hours of the animals being killed. The carcasses must then be delivered to the meat processor within 96 hours of being killed (see Use of animal material depots).

If you are using an AMD, the carcasses must be under refrigeration. Make sure the carcasses are spaced and positioned in the depot to promote airflow and help them cool down.

If the animals are delivered to the meat processor within 10 hours of being killed, the transport unit does not need to be chilled.

Cooling of rabbits, hares and wallabies

Carcass from **rabbits, hares and wallabies**, must be

- placed under refrigeration within 4 hours of being killed if the ambient temperature is above 10°C.

- placed under refrigeration within 12 hours of being killed if the ambient temperature is below 10°C.
- The carcasses must be delivered to the meat processor with 48 hours of being killed.

Handling and presentation of carcasses

You must ensure that the carcasses

- are handled and transported to prevent contamination from agricultural chemicals and things such as aviation gas.
    - special care is needed if vehicles are also used for transporting material used in pest control operations. These vehicles need to be thoroughly cleaned. If vehicles are not clean, do not use the vehicle for transporting carcasses – unclean vehicles could contaminate the meat.
- has the head attached or positively identified with the carcass (see section Skin and Head for exemptions).
- has all parts required for post-mortem examination presented to the meat processor.
- The carcass must be presented with kidneys, heart, lungs and liver attached to the carcass.
- The carcass must be presented with the neck cleared by removing the windpipe and ears attached to the skin (except for game estate animals that have had skin removed from the should to the head).

Carcasses are best transported in the hanging position to facilitate cooling. Avoid piling carcasses on top of one other because this may inhibit cooling and increase the risk of contamination between carcasses. Ensure that refrigeration facilities are not over-loaded as this may also affect cooling efficiency.

Places you cannot hunt

You cannot hunt and supply animals for processing if they have been hunted

- On private land where you have no poison use statements from the landowner/manager.
- in areas where poisons have been used for pest control.

Poisons and poison residues

Vertebrate toxic agents (VTA), or poisons, such as brodifacoum, cyanide and 1080, are used widely to kill or control pests such as possums and rodents.

Pest control programmes in New Zealand using poisons can result in

- **primary poisoning of animals**: through direct ingestion of a poison
- **secondary poisoning of pigs**: from digesting poisoned tissues of animals

If an animal has eaten a non-lethal dose (not enough to kill the animal) - either directly or indirectly – the meat, liver or other tissues may contain small amounts of poisons (residue). The residues can make the meat unsafe to eat.

Keeping poison residue out of the food chain

To prevent animal product with potential poison residues from entering the food chain, buffer zones and caution periods are applied to show where and when you can or cannot hunt. If a buffer zone and caution period apply to an area of land, then you cannot hunt animals commercially within that area.

What is a buffer zone?

A **buffer zone** is the area of land between a poisoned area (where poison has been laid) and nearby land where it is safe to hunt animals. It is measured as a straight line on a horizontal plane (see Figure 2).

Table 1 shows the required buffer zone distances for each type of animal and poison.

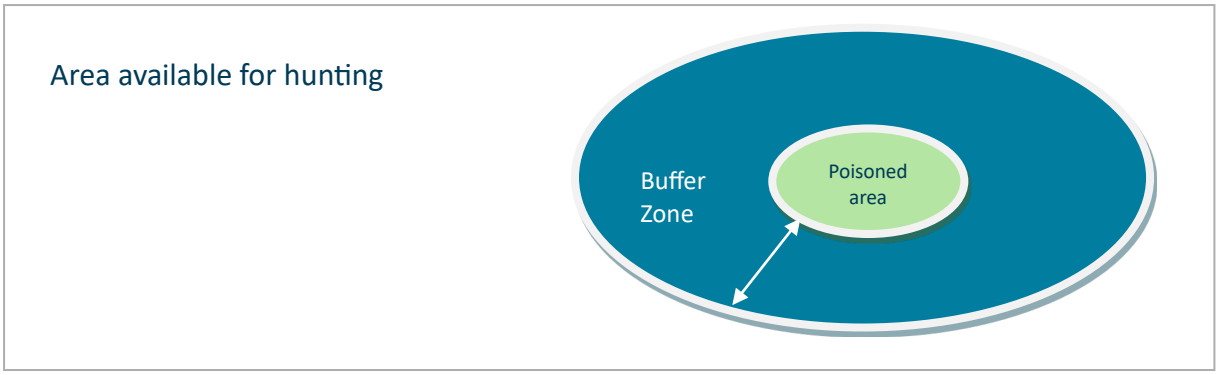

Figure 2 Poisoned area and buffer zones

What is a caution period?

A **caution period** is the amount of time that must pass after poison has been laid (or an aerial drop has occurred) in an area before it can be hunted again. The caution period is determined by how long the poison can remain in the meat, liver or other tissues after a sub-lethal exposure. The caution periods for each poison group are listed in the second row of Table 1.

Poison groups

Poisons are classified into 5 poison groups (poison group 0 to 4) depending on their caution period. Each poison group has a different caution period, while the buffer zones are **species specific**. The poison groups, buffer zones and caution periods are shown in Table 1.

How to establish if you can hunt within a specific area?

Poison use statement and DOC pesticide summaries indicate if any poisons have been used in the area you want to hunt, and therefore if the animals can be supplied for processing from that area. It is your responsibility to obtain of these and give them to the meat processor to show that the land you hunted on is safe and meet the legal requirements.

Poison use statements covers privately owned land and the DOC pesticide summaries covers poison used on land managed or administered by DOC. Both shows the poison(s) used on the land, if any.

Table 1 Poison groups, caution periods, and buffer zones

Poison group		0	1	2	3	4
Poison		Cholecalciferol Hydrogen cyanide Phosphorus Potassium cyanide Sodium cyanide	Zinc phosphide Para-aminopropiophenone Sodium nitrite Any other poison not covered in groups 0, & 2 to 4	Diphacinone Pindone	Coumatetralyl 1080	Brodifacoum[1] Difethialone Bromadiolone Flocoumafen Difenacoum
Caution period (all species)		**None**	**1 month**	**2 months**	**4 months**	**3 years**
Buffer zone	Rabbits	0	200 m	200 m	200 m	200 m
	Hares, tahr, wallabies, and possums	0	1 km	1 km	1 km	1 km
	Goats, chamois, deer, sheep, and buffalo	0	2 km	2 km	2 km	2 km
	Pigs and other species	0	2 km	2 km	2 km	5 km

You must provide a summary that covers the area of land where you have been hunting, and for any other land within the buffer zones, including privately-owned and conservation land. The buffer zones apply even if you only hunted near the boundary of another property. The buffer zones are:

- 200 metres for rabbits:
- 1 kilometre for hares, possums, wallabies and tahr:
- 2 kilometres for goats, chamois, deer and buffalo:
- 5 kilometres for pigs and any other species of hunted mammal.

[1] MPI is reviewing the scientific basis for the caution period and buffer zone that applies to brodifacoum to ensure these measures remain appropriate.

For animals that are contained within a fully deer fenced game estate, the poison use statement must cover each area of land within the game estate.

You must keep a copy of every poison use statement or DOC pesticide summary for 1 year after supplying hunted animal for processing.

Poison use statements

How to obtain poison use statements

Poison use statements must be obtained from 'a responsible person'. The responsible person is generally the landowner or the manager of the land where you want to hunt.

You must make sure that the responsible person understands:

- what the statement says and means
- which poisons must be included on the statement
- the caution period that applies to each poison
- the land area that statement covers
- the time period the statement applies to
- what they need to do if any additional or unexpected poisoning activities happens during the time period that the statement covers.

NOTE See Which poisons must be included on the statement for additional information on the content of the poison use statement.

Poison Use Statement Validity and Amendments

The completed Poison Use Statements are valid for 3 months from the date of signing.

You must leave your contact details with the responsible person who signed the poison use statement so you can be contacted if any information on the statement changes within the three-month period from when it was signed (for example if a contractor or the landowner carries out pest control activities on the land). The responsible person is legally obligated to inform you of any change in poison status of the land covered by the statement.

Trade name products

The active ingredients in poison products, e.g. cyanide, 1080 or brodifacoum, are listed in Table 1. You may be more familiar with well-known products which contains the active ingredients listed in the table, such as *Pestoff Rodent Bait*, *Talon Rat or Mouse Killer*, and *Final All-Weather Blox*.

It is important that you know which active ingredients are in the poison products used. This helps ensure you apply the correct buffer zones and follow the right caution periods. To make this easier, Appendix 2 includes a list of common product names alongside their active substances.

Inaccessible Poisons

Under certain conditions, you may supply animals that have been hunted within buffer zone land for poisons in group 1, 2 or 3.

Poisons in Groups 1, 2 and 3 are considered inaccessible to hunted animals if they:

- were used solely in bait station that were correctly situated and used, or
- were used solely in building (such as farm buildings) that cannot be accessed by the hunted animal, or
- were otherwise inaccessible to the animal due to impassable geographical features (such as rivers, sea, cliffs or steep ravines).

The responsible person completing the poison use statement must confirm that any poisons used were not, or unlikely to have been, accessed by the hunted animal. If this is confirmed the buffer zones and caution periods do not apply, and animals (other than pigs) can be hunted on the land as if the poisons had not been laid.

This exemption does not apply if

- the animal is a pig, or
- if you are hunting on land administered by DOC.

Information you must provide

When you send carcasses for processing you must provide the following information:

- Hunt and kill location information
- a completed and signed Supplier Declarations
- Poison use statements and DOC pesticide summaries covering the land where you have hunted.

If you have used a mobile animal material depot (AMD), the operator of the mobile AMD must provide records to the meat processor of temperatures measured while the animals were stored in the mobile AMD.

NOTE Some overseas markets do not allow the use of mobile AMDs. Contact your processor for more information.

Hunt and kill location information

You must provide hunt and kill location when you supply carcasses for processing.

The hunt and kill information can be provided in different ways, depending on how you hunt (helicopter or ground) and the area where you hunt (e.g. game estates).

Aerial Hunting

If you are hunting from a helicopter, you must use a GPS system.
You must provide the following information

- the GPS system used
- the date of the hunting activity
- the GPS co-ordinates (in NZTM2000) at the start and finish of the hunting flight
- the GPS flight track data points, including altitude, taken in a continuous record at a maximum of 10 second intervals, for the entire hunting flight and for each flight used to transfer carcasses.
- the time and the GPS co-ordinates of the kill location(s).

Ground hunting

Hunted animals other than rabbits, hares and wallabies

If you are hunting on the ground or from ground conveyance (using a vehicle), you must use a GPS system.
You must provide the following information

- the GPS system used
- the date of the hunting activity
- the time and the GPS co-ordinates of the kill location(s).

The processor must be able to use the GPS together with the Geographical Information System (GIS) to determine whether the animal material is supplied in accordance with the requirements of this Part.

Rabbits, hares and wallabies

If you are hunting on the ground or from ground conveyance (using a vehicle), you can use either a GPS system or a topographical map to identify the kill location. You must specify the method you use in your Operations Manual.
If you choose to use a GPS system to provide hunt and kill location, you must provide the following information

- the GPS system used
- the date of the hunting activity
- the time and the GPS co-ordinates of the kill location(s).

If you choose to use a topographical map to provide hunt and kill location, the areas of land must be identified in your Operations Manual as areas where topographical map grid references can be used.

Hunting on game estates

Game estates must be fully confined by either well maintained fencing or impassable geographical features such as rivers, sea, cliffs or steep ravines. Game estate animals can only be suppled for processing if the game estate is fully confined.

If you are hunting on a game estate, you can use either a GPS system or a topographical map to identify the kill location. You must specify the method you use in your Operations Manual.

Supplier Declarations

General Requirements

You must provide a supplier declaration to the meat processor with all carcasses sent for processing. The supplier declaration is a legal document. It contains key information about the carcasses to the meat processor. The processor uses the information to determine if the animals are suitable for processing. The information is also used to determine export eligibility and to make official assurances.

There are three different supplier declarations depending on the animals that have been hunted:

- Most hunters need to use the supplier declaration for the supply of Hunted Animals for Human Consumption (PDF) (mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/14743).
- If you have hunting within a game estate, you must use the supplier declaration for the supply of Game Estate Animals for Human Consumption (PDF) (mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/14746).
- If you are hunting farmed animals that have become feral, you must use the supplier declaration for the supply of Farmed Red Meat Animals which have become Feral and then been killed for Human Consumption (PDF) (mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15112).

As the listed hunter, you must complete and sign the supplier declaration. It cannot be completed or signed by anyone else, even if that person is under your direct supervision.

If there is not enough space on one declaration for all carcasses submitted, additional signed pages should be provided.

Game estate animals – specific requirements

There are potential additional risks for game estate animals compared with other hunted animals as they may have been treated with veterinary medicines or been exposed to

agricultural compounds on the game estate. To manage these risks an animal must have been on a game estate for a minimum period and additional information must be included on the supplier declaration.

Minimum time that animals must have been on a game estate

Before you can send animals from a game estate for processing, the animals must have been on the game estate for **63 days** for pigs and wallabies and **for 91 days** for deer, tahr, chamois, goats, buffalo, cattle and sheep, and must not be within the withholding period of any veterinary medicines that they have been treated with.

These timeframes reflect the **default** withholding periods for veterinary medicine treatments.

If you can confirm that the animals are **not within any withholding period** for veterinary treatments, you can send animals for processing earlier than the 63 or 91 days. You can confirm this by checking the Animal Status Declaration (ASD) that accompanied the animals when they arrived at the game estate.

Additional information to declare for game estate animals

You must declare (or confirm) the following on the supplier declaration for game estate animals:

- that no ruminant have been fed ruminant protein in their lifetime;
- whether the animals were subject to MPI controls for any purpose other than TB;
- whether cattle or deer were under TB movement control;
- whether any animals have been vaccinated against Johne's disease.

Farmed red meat animals that have become feral – specific requirements

Farmed red meat animals (e.g. cattle or sheep) may have been treated with veterinary medicine or been exposed to agricultural compounds. If these animals become feral and you

hunt and kill them, you will not know if they have been treated, which could be a potential food safety risk.

Additional information that must be included on the supplier declaration

To manage the potential food safety risk associated with farmed red meat animals that have become feral, you must declare (or confirm) the following information on the supplier declaration for farmed red meat animals that have become feral and then been killed:

- that the animal has not been fed ruminant protein in their lifetime;
- confirm that the animals were not subject to MPI controls for any purpose other than Tb;
- confirm that no cattle or deer were under Tb movement control;
- confirm that the animals are not on a surveillance list;
- whether any animals have been vaccinated against Johne's disease;
- the farm name and address the animals came from, if you know the address;
- a detailed map and description of the physical boundaries of the area of land covered by the declaration.

You must include the detailed map and the farm name and address if you know it. **The remaining additional information is to the best of your knowledge**.

Poison use statements and DOC pesticide summaries

Poison use statements

Poison use statements must be completed by 'a responsible person'. The responsible person is generally the landowner or the manager of the land where you want to hunt.

Which poisons must be included on the statement

The responsible person must include any poisons from groups 1 to 4 on the poison use statement (see Table 2 below). Poisons from Group 0 does not need to be listed.

Table 2 Poison groups.

Poison group	0	1	2	3	4
Poison	Cholecalciferol Hydrogen cyanide Phosphorus Potassium cyanide Sodium cyanide	Zinc phosphide Para-aminopropiophenone Sodium nitrite Any other poison not covered in groups 0, & 2 to 4	Diphacinone Pindone	Coumatetralyl 1080	Brodifacoum Difethialone Bromadiolone Flocoumafen Difenacoum

The following poisoning activities must be listed:

- Group 1: any poisons laid over the last **month**
- Group 2: any poisons laid over the last **2 months**
- Group 3: any poisons laid over the last **4 months**
- Group 4: any poisons laid over the last **3 years**

The poisons must be listed regardless of

- whether they have been laid by the responsible person (landowner or manager) or any other person or agency (e.g. pest control operator or councils).
- how they were applied (e.g. bait station, bait bags, within farm building, or by aerial drop).

The responsible person must also list any poison that they plan to use in the next 3 months, as the statement will be valid for that period.

Trade name products

The active ingredients in poison products, e.g. cyanide, 1080 or brodifacoum, are listed in Table 2. You may be more familiar with well-known products which contains the active ingredients listed in the table, such as *Pestoff Rodent Bait*, *Talon Rat or Mouse Killer*, and *Final All-Weather Blox*.

It is important that the active substance is listed when completing the poison use statement. The responsible person may need to look at the product label, use other records or the

internet to confirm what the active substances are. Appendix 2 provides a list of trade names products and their active substances current at the time of writing this guide.

Land Area Covered by the Poison Use Statement

The land area that is covered by the poison use statement must be clear. To achieve this, the statement must include the physical address and a detailed description of the physical boundaries of the areas of land covered. For example, a copy of a topographical map with the property boundaries marked, could be signed and attached to the statement.

A copy of the poison use statement can be found on MPI's website: Poison Use Statement – Human Consumption and Petfood (PDF) (mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/68175)

DOC pesticide summaries

DOC pesticide summaries list pesticide operations run on land administered by DOC.

The pesticide summary is an interactive map that provides up-to-date information. It covers poisons that

- **have been laid**: pesticides have been laid or are about to be laid.
- **will be laid**: an application has DOC permission to go ahead. The exact timing may change
- **proposed to be laid**: an application of pesticides is planned, but the details of the operations haven't been confirmed. It may not go ahead.

The pesticide summary is updated daily.

The buffer zones and caution periods then need to be applied to determine when the land is suitable for hunting.

DOC pesticide summaries are available online or at the local DOC office. Printed or downloaded copies of pesticide summaries may be out of date.

DOC pesticide summaries can be found here:

maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=pesticidesummary

The interactive maps on the DOC website allow users to browse the maps, generate pdfs of individual operations or create a summary report by region. A few things to note:

- When the website is first opened there is a text box which contains some important notes, caution notes, disclaimer and a notice. Scroll down to read these, and then click on either "Cancel" or "I accept".
- Two options are then provided: "View national map" or "View operations by Region".

(1) View national map

a) Allows a person to pan and zoom around the map.

b) Clicking on an operation will show summary information on the left-hand pane (Note if there is more than one treatment block covering the spot clicked on, there will be multiple records on the left, one for each block).

c) There is a hyperlink option to create a pdf which is a one-page summary of the operation along with a detailed map.

(2) View a list of pesticide operations by region

a) Allows a person to select a region and then produces a pdf report.

b) The report lists every individual treatment block with a map hyperlink.

- Buffer zones are not recorded spatially.
- All operations (whether DOC or external) on Public Conservation Areas (PCA, i.e. DOC land) are included, but it does not show operations on non-DOC land.

Verification

Processor verification

The meat processor may periodically check that you are operating in accordance with your Operations Manual and therefore meeting the legal requirements. They will also routinely verify that hunt data complies with the MPI requirements. This will involve uploading GPS data to the MPI Wild Game Helicopter Tracks App and checking:

- That the required poison use statements have been obtained for the hunt. They will do this by checking where kill locations, and what properties are within the applicable buffer zones.
- That no pesticide use has occurred within the kill location buffer zones.
- That kill location data appears legitimate, e.g. the helicopter movements are realistic for hunting activity where kill locations are.

External Verification

MPI may also check your activities. This could include verification of the information in the Operations Manual, supplier declarations and poison use statements. This can be undertaken as part of a verification of the meat processor or by field verification. Field verification would involve a MPI verifier checking that the information documented in the Operations Manual is properly implemented and you are collecting the required hunt information.

The verification cost is paid by the meat processor.

Enforcement

If there are issues with the activities of a listed hunter, there are different levels of sanctions that can be applied. These include putting the listed hunter on to an MPI surveillance list (see below), residue testing of carcasses, or suspension or withdrawal of listing. The reasons for applying sanctions include if a listed hunter:

- is found to have submitted false or misleading information
- is found to have repeated or serious residue violations
- has repeated or serious failures to meet the requirements of the legislation e.g. hygienic dressing, holding times and temperatures, use of listed animal material depots, etc.
- is convicted of an activity relating to the hunting of wild animals
- has failed to operate in accordance with their agreed Operations Manual
- breaches any other responsibility that compromises food safety or animal product trade.

MPI Surveillance List

A listed hunter can be added to a MPI surveillance list if they supply carcasses for processing that are found to have chemical residues above a maximum residue or permissible level.

If a hunter on a surveillance list supplies carcasses for processing, these may be tested for residues and held until the test results are available. This process can take up to six weeks. If the tests find chemical residues above a maximum residue or permissible level, the carcasses may be condemned.

For more information on the procedures for being added to, or removed from the MPI surveillance list, please contact MPI.

Suspension of Listing

MPI may suspend hunter listing at any time if:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person's performance is unsatisfactory with regard to the competencies required for certification; and/or

- they have failed to comply with the legislation.

A person whose listing has been suspended cannot work as a listed hunter. When suspending listing, MPI will advise the hunter in writing, stating:

- the reason for the suspension;
- the date of commencement of the suspension;
- the period of suspension;
- any conditions to be applied to the suspension; and
- the review process to appeal the suspension.

In response, the hunter may write to MPI, within an agreed timeframe stating the reasons why the decision to suspend certification should be overturned.

This information will be reviewed by MPI and a decision made to:

- remove the suspension;
- leave the suspension in place until further notice; or
- withdraw listing.

The hunter will be notified of the outcome of any assessment in writing. If a hunters' listing is suspended, fees will not be refunded.

Withdrawal of Listing

MPI may withdraw listing at any time if the person has failed to comply with the legislation that, that in the opinion of the Director General, casts doubt on the person's fitness or competency to undertake the role.

Reasonable grounds include if an issue leading to a suspension is not satisfactorily resolved; or if an issue arises which is of sufficient concern that MPI withdraws listing without first suspending it.

When withdrawing listing, MPI will advise the hunter in writing, stating:

- the reason for the withdrawal;
- the date of commencement of the withdrawal; and

- the review process to appeal the withdrawal.

Where MPI intends to withdraw a hunter's listing, the hunter may write to MPI within an agreed timeframe stating the reasons why the decision should be overturned.

This information will be reviewed by MPI and a decision made. The hunter will be notified of the outcome of any assessment in writing. If listing is withdrawn, fees will not be refunded.

Prosecution

Other actions under the Animal Products Act 1999 may be undertaken. For example, seizure of animal material and prosecution charges for any offences committed under the Act.

Appendix 1: Glossary

ACVM Act means the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997

agricultural compound means

a) any substance, mixture of substances, or biological compound, used or intended for use in the direct management of plants and animals, or to be applied to the land, place, or water on or in which the plants and animals are managed, for the purposes of—

   i) managing or eradicating pests, including vertebrate pests; or
   ii) maintaining, promoting, or regulating plant or animal productivity and performance or reproduction; or
   iii) fulfilling nutritional requirements; or
   iv) the manipulation, capture, or immobilisation of animals; or
   v) diagnosing the condition of animals; or
   vi) preventing or treating conditions of animals; or
   vii) enhancing the effectiveness of an agricultural compound used for the treatment of plants and animals; or
   viii) marking animals; and

b) includes—

   i) any veterinary medicine, substance, mixture of substances, or biological compound used for post-harvest treatment of raw primary produce; and
   ii) anything used or intended to be used as feed for animals; and
   iii) any substance, mixture of substances, or biological compound declared to be an agricultural compound for the purposes of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act by Order in Council made under subsection (2)

animal material means any live or dead animal, or any tissue or other material taken or derived from an animal

animal material depot (AMD) means a depot storing hunted animals after they have been killed, and before primary processing.

bait station means a rigid device or container designed or adapted to physically contain baits in such a way as to:

a) allow unrestricted access by target pests while preventing or minimising spillage of bait and access to off-target species; and
a) protect baits from the elements and extend their usable life

buffer zone means the land situated between the boundaries of an area of land that has been exposed to poison and an area of land where it is acceptable for animals to be procured, measured as a straight line on a horizontal plane

caution period is the period of time following an area of land's exposure to poison within which hunting is not acceptable

direct supervision in relation to any function, operation or activity means supervising any function, operation or activity while in sufficiently close physical proximity to ensure that any relevant specifications are met

DOC pesticide summaries mean the regularly updated lists of animal pest operations using vertebrate toxic agents that occur on lands managed or administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC). These are published on the DOC website or available from DOC offices

Evisceration means the removal of the internal organs *(viscera) from an animal carcass as part of the dressing process, carried out in a manner that maintains food safety, hygiene, and prevents contamination of edible tissues.*

farmed red meat animals means

a) cattle:
b) deer:
c) sheep:
d) goats:
e) pigs:
f) buffalo:
g) alpacas and llamas:

h) horses:

i) rabbits:

j) ostriches and emus

game estate animal means any of the following (see section 65B of the Animal Products Act 1999):

a) any deer species (including, but not limited to, red deer, fallow deer, wapiti deer (elk), sika deer, white tail deer and sambar deer):

b) tahr:

c) chamois:

d) goats:

e) pigs:

f) wallabies:

g) buffalo:

h) sheep:

i) cattle

GIS means the Geographical Information System, which is a technology that brings together all types of information based on geographic location for the purpose of query, analysis, and the generation of maps and reports

GPS (Global Positioning System) is a system for determining position on the Earth's surface

GPS data in relation to hunting, means electronically generated data that includes —

a) the date of hunting; and

b) the waypoints; and

c) in the case of ground hunting trips - the GPS coordinates in NZTM2000 and time at both the commencement and completion of hunting; and

d) in the case of helicopter operations - the GPS co-ordinates in NZTM2000, altitude, and time, taken at a maximum of 10 second intervals for the duration of the flight during which the hunting occurred

hunted animal means any of the following that are procured by hunting:

a) wild mammals:
b) game estate animals:
c) farmed mammals that have become feral

kill location means the place where the animal came to rest immediately after it was shot, or, where safety is an issue, as close to that point as can safely be recorded.

listed hunter means a hunter who supplies killed hunted animals or live possums for human consumption and is listed as required by Animal Products Regulation 116

maximum permissible level (MPL) means the maximum permissible level at which a substance may be present in animal material or animal product as specified in the Animal Products Notice Maximum Permissible Levels.

maximum residue limit (MRL) means, in relation to a residue, the maximum permissible level of that residue as specified in the current version of the Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds

mobile animal material depot (mobile AMD), in relation to the storage of hunted animal material, means a chiller truck or other refrigerated transportation unit that may be moved between locations when operating as an animal material depot.

MPI means the Ministry for Primary Industries

NZTM2000 means New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000

Operations Manual means a written agreement between a listed hunter and a meat processor.

processor verification means the application of methods, procedures, tests and other checks by the operator to confirm the ongoing —

a) compliance of the risk management programme to the legislative requirements; and
b) compliance of the operation to the risk management programme as written; and
c) applicability of the risk management programme to the operation.

poison means, in relation to vertebrates, a Vertebrate toxic agents (VTA) that is registered under the ACVM Act for use against vertebrate animals

Poison use statement, in relation to the procurement of hunted animals, means a statement that describes the poison use status of an area of land.

responsible person means a person with the relevant knowledge of poison use on an area of land and who is the landowner, manager or other person (such as a legal representative) with the authority to complete and sign a poison use statement in respect of that area of land

ruminant means an animal of the suborder *Ruminantia* that chews the cud regurgitated from its rumen, for example, deer, tahr, chamois, goats, buffalo, cattle and sheep

ruminant protein includes meat, meat meal, bone meal, and blood meal, but excludes dairy products

supplier declaration means a declaration that relates to an animal (carcass) or group of animals (carcasses) intended to be supplied for primary processing.

temporary holding in relation to the holding of wild mammal material, game estate mammal material or material from farmed mammals that have become feral and then been killed, (other than deer velvet), means holding in an animal material depot after 10 hours has elapsed from the time the mammal was killed, prior to delivery to a primary processor. This excludes holding within 24 hours from the time the mammal is killed where the material is delivered directly to the primary processor

topographical map means a map to a standard 1:50 000 scale that:

a) identifies cultural features (e.g., place names, roads, settlements); and
b) distinguishes between different forms of vegetation cover (e.g., pasture, bush, orchards); and
c) identifies hydrographical features (e.g., rivers, lakes, wetlands); and
d) identifies the contours or relief features of the land

Vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs) mean agricultural compounds that are used to kill or control vertebrate pests like rabbits, possums, and rodents. They include products that affect reproduction.

withholding period, in relation to veterinary medicines, means the minimum period that must elapse between the last treatment of an animal with a veterinary medicine and the presentation of the animal for primary processing, in order for residues of the veterinary medicine in the animal material to meet the relevant residue threshold.

Appendix 2: Poisons: Active substances in trade name products

The following table lists the trade name products for vertebrate toxic agents (poisons) currently authorised under section 21 of the ACVM Act, together with their active ingredient. The list was current at the time of writing this manual. To check if any changes have been made to the register since that time, go to the ACVM register- veterinary medicines, agricultural chemicals and vertebrate toxic agents (https://eatsafe.nzfsa.govt.nz/web/public/acvm-register)

Table 3: Trade Name Products and their Active Ingredients

Active Ingredient	Trade Product Name
Zinc phosphide	ZaP Possum Paste
Para-aminopropiophenone	None registered
Sodium nitrite	Bait-Rite Paste
Diphacinone	Pest-Gone Rodent Bait Ramik mini bars D-block Extreme D-block for the Control of Rats RatAbate Paste Rat Bait Blocks Pestoff Rat Bait 50D Ditrac All-weather Rodent Block
Pindone	Pindone liquid concentrate Pindone Pellets Pindone RSS Rabbit Pellets Pindone Rabbit Pellets

Active Ingredient	Trade Product Name
Coumatetralyl	No Rats & Mice No Rats & Mice Dual Action Bait & Powder Racumin Paste
1080 (sodium fluoroacetate)	0.04% 1080 pellets 1080 Solution 0.08% 1080 pellets 0.2% 1080 pellets 10% 1080 gel 5% 1080 gel Pestoff professional 1080 possum and rabbit paste 0.06% 0.08% 1080 rodent pellets 0.10% 1080 feral cat bait 0.15% 1080 pellets Pestoff professional 1080 possum paste 0.08% Pestoff professional 1080 possum paste 0.15% Pestoff Exterminator Paste
Brodifacoum	Rodenthor Block Rodenticide Rodenthor Soft Bait Rodenticide Pestoff Hi-strength possum bait BRIGAND Blocks Ratsak Bait Station Pestoff rodent bait 20R Final All-weather blox Ratsak Disposable Mouse Bait Station with Wax Block B-block for the control of Rodents Pestoff rodent blocks Pestoff rodent pellets No Mice One Feed Bait Station Talon rat & mouse killer

Active Ingredient	Trade Product Name
Brodifacoum	Ratsak throw packs No Rats & Mice One Feed Blocks Pestoff brodifacoum possum bait Ratsak Reusable Rodent bait Station with Wax Blocks Ratsak Reusable Mouse Bait Station with Wax Blocks Pestoff waxed possum bait Surefire Broma Blocks Rodenticide Talon WB Entrap Ratsak Wax Block
Difethialone	First Strike Soft Bait Single-Feed Rodenticide Generation Block Generation Soft Bait
Bromadiolone	Tomcat Rat and Mouse Bait Bromard with Bitrex Rid Rat Super Rentokil Rid Rat Premium Block Squeak Super Maki Block Contrac AllWeather Blox Tomcat All Weather Blox Maki Soft Bait Single-Feed Rodenticide
Flocoumafen	Storm® Secure
Difenacoum	None registered