



City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (PA-R&M) (0216-70)

Version 1.0 (January 2026)

Qualification Handbook

Candidates are **not** permitted to refer to this document during the practical observation and oral questioning.

Qualification at a glance

Subject area	Pesticides and Pest Control
City & Guilds number	0216-70
Age group approved	16+
Entry requirements	N/A
Assessment	<p>This is a non-independently assessed qualification.</p> <p>To gain this qualification, candidates must successfully achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one to one practical observation with oral questioning
Grading	Pass/Fail
Approvals	Full approval required
Support materials	<p>Qualification handbook</p> <p>Practical assessment guidance (available via the Assessor secure area of www.nptc.org.uk)</p>
Registration and certification	Consult Walled Garden for last dates

Title and level	City & Guilds qualification number	Regulatory reference number	GLH	TQT
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (PA-R&M)	0216-70	610/6545/6	56	60

Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.0 January 2026	Initial version	All

Contents

Qualification at a glance	2
1 Introduction	5
Structure	7
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	7
2 Centre requirements	8
Approval	8
Resource requirements	8
Quality assurance	9
Learner entry requirements	10
Age restrictions	10
Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration	10
3 Delivering the qualification	12
Initial assessment and induction	12
Inclusion and diversity	12
Sustainability	12
Support materials	13
4 Assessment	14
Assessment of the qualification	14
Assessment strategy	14
Time constraints	14
Summary of responsibilities in preparing for the assessment process	15
5 Units	16
Structure of the units	16
Guidance for delivery of the units	16
Unit 212 The principles of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice	17
Unit 213 The practices of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice	23
Supporting information	26
Appendix 1 Sources of general information	28

1 Introduction

This document tells you what you need to do to deliver the qualification.

Area	Description
Who is the qualification for?	<p>The term “pesticides” is defined as any substance, preparation or organism that is prepared for or used to control any pest. The term “pesticide” is used to cover pesticides and Plant Protection Products (PPPs).</p> <p>This qualification is for those individuals whose job involves applying professional pesticide products. It is a requirement under the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) to hold an approved qualification.</p> <p>This qualification is designed specifically for those who wish to purchase and use rodenticides to control rats and mice.</p>
What does the qualification cover?	<p>This qualification covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• understanding the legislative, regulatory and Codes of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of rodenticides• knowing how to minimise the risk of human contamination and implement emergency procedures• knowing how to store and transport rodenticides safely• knowing the characteristics of rats and mice and their impact on the environment• understanding the methods of preventative management and control for rats and mice• reading and interpreting information on a product label• assessing the environmental risks relating to the application site• carrying out safe and accurate application procedures• knowing how to carry out post-operational procedures
What opportunities for progression are there?	<p>This qualification will support progression into/sustainment in employment where using rodenticides to control rats and mice is part of the role.</p>

This qualification will also support progression into further learning in pesticides and pest control.

City & Guilds offer a range of refreshers in pesticides and pest control. Under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) it is recommended that individuals have a refresher every 2–5 years.

Each refresher covers the appropriate practical skills required to meet legislation, industry technical standards and industry good practice.

The refresher encourages looking forward and identifying opportunities to learn something new, refresh existing knowledge, improve skills, and keep up to date with the latest developments in a profession or industry.

Who did we develop the qualification with?

Developed with City & Guilds NPTC stakeholders, associates and industry representatives.

Compliance with the Health and Safety Executive, Chemical Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) and the relevant Environmental Agency.

Is it part of an apprenticeship framework or initiative?

No

Structure

To achieve the City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (PA-R&M) (0216-70), learners must achieve:

City & Guilds unit number	Unit title	GLH
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Mandatory unit:

Learners **must** achieve the following mandatory units.

Unit 212	The principles of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice	28
Unit 213	The practices of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice	28

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

TQT is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected for a learner to demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

TQT consists of the following two elements:

- the number of hours that an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for guided learning
- an estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but, unlike guided learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Title and level	GLH	TQT
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (PA-R&M) (0216-70)	56	60

2 Centre requirements

Approval

Full approval

To offer this qualification, centres will need to gain both centre and qualification approval. Please refer to the document **Centre Approval Process: Quality Assurance Standards** for further information.

Centre staff should familiarise themselves with the structure, content and assessment requirements of the qualification before designing a course programme.

Resource requirements

Centres

The learner must be registered through the City & Guilds approved Assessment Centre for this qualification **prior** to the assessment.

Centre Staffing

Staff delivering these qualifications must be able to demonstrate that they meet the following occupational expertise requirements. They must have:

Technical competence

- be occupationally competent or possess technical expertise equivalent to the level of training being delivered.
- experience should reflect current industry standards and practice.

Professional experience

- must have current and relevant experience in the specific subject area being delivered and assessed.

Training delivery

- proven track record of delivering training.

Assessors

Assessors must be approved Certificate of Competence City & Guilds NPTC Assessors; they do not have to be independent, but can be, **and can have been involved with the training of the candidate.**

Assessors must use the practical assessment guidance which is available via the assessor secure area of **www.nptc.org.uk**.

Assessors must:

- show competence and provide evidence of industry expertise in the qualification(s) they wish to assess
- hold the qualification as a candidate and have been technically evaluated as an assessor
- be up to date with their verification and relevant first aid training.

Demonstrating continuing technically relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) with these requirements is a pre-requisite for assessors to remain on the list of approved assessors.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff in ensuring that their knowledge of the occupational area remains current and of best practice in delivery, mentoring, training, assessment and quality assurance, and that it takes account of any national or legislative developments.

Physical resources

Centres must be able to demonstrate that they have access to the physical resources required to deliver this qualification and its assessments:

Site requirements:

- a dry location for questioning and documentation completion
- a specified area for completing a site survey and identification of rodent activity
- a specified area for application of rodenticide by placing into appropriate bait stations

Equipment:

Any equipment used for the delivery or assessment must comply with current legal requirements.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- spillage kit
- bait stations

Documentation:

- product label and/or appropriate EAMU provided by the candidate
- site plan provided by the candidate
- application record provided by the candidate

Consumables:

- first aid kit
- simulated pesticide product or actual product may be used if required

Additional information:

Additional information may be sought from the relevant product information or database or any other publication by the government or a government agency.

Quality assurance

Approved centres must have effective quality assurance systems to ensure optimal delivery and assessment of qualifications. Quality assurance includes initial centre approval, qualification approval and the centre's own internal procedures for monitoring quality. Centres are responsible for internal quality assurance and City & Guilds is responsible for external quality assurance. All external quality assurance processes reflect the minimum requirements for verified and moderated assessments, as detailed in the Centre Assessment Standards Scrutiny (CASS), section H2 of Ofqual's General Conditions. For more information on both CASS and City & Guilds quality assurance processes visit the [What is CASS?](#) and [Quality Assurance Standards](#) documents on the City & Guilds website.

Standards and rigorous quality assurance are maintained by the use of:

- internal quality assurance
- City & Guilds external quality assurance.

In order to carry out the quality assurance role, Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) must:

- have appropriate teaching and vocational knowledge and expertise
- have experience in quality management/internal quality assurance
- hold or be working towards an appropriate teaching/training/assessing qualification
- be familiar with the occupation and technical content covered within the qualification.

External quality assurance for the qualification will be provided by City & Guilds. External Quality Assurers (EQAs) are appointed by City & Guilds to approve centres, and to monitor the assessment and internal quality assurance carried out by centres. External quality assurance is carried out to ensure that assessment is valid and reliable, and that there is good assessment practice in centres.

The role of the EQA is to:

- provide advice and support to centre staff
- ensure the quality and consistency of assessments and marking/grading within and between centres by the use of systematic sampling
- provide feedback to centres and to City & Guilds.

Learner entry requirements

Centres must ensure that learners have the potential and opportunity to gain the qualification successfully.

Age restrictions

This qualification is approved for learners aged 16 or above.

Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration

City & Guilds has considered the design of this qualification and its assessments in order to best support accessibility and inclusion for all learners. City & Guilds understands however that individuals have diverse learning needs and may require reasonable adjustments to fully participate. Reasonable adjustments, such as additional time or alternative formats, may be provided to accommodate learners with disabilities and support fair access to assessment.

Access arrangements are adjustments that allow candidates with disabilities, special educational needs, and temporary injuries to access the assessment and demonstrate their skills and knowledge without changing the demands of the assessment. These arrangements must be made before assessment takes place.

The Equality Act 2010 requires City & Guilds to make reasonable adjustments where a disabled person would be at a substantial disadvantage in undertaking an assessment.

It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure at the start of a programme of learning that candidates will be able to access the requirements of the qualification.

Special consideration is a post examination adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary injury, illness or other indisposition at the time of the examination/assessment.

Please refer to the documents 'Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments', 'JCQ – A Guide to the special consideration process' and 'Access arrangements – When and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds' for more information. All of these are available on the **City & Guilds website**

3 Delivering the qualification

Initial assessment and induction

An initial assessment of each learner should be made before the start of their programme to identify:

- if the learner has any specific training needs
- any support and guidance they may need when working towards their qualification
- any units they have already completed or credit they have accumulated which is relevant to the qualification
- the appropriate type and level of qualification.

We recommend that centres provide an induction programme, so the learner fully understands the requirements of the qualification, their responsibilities as a learner and the responsibilities of the centre. This information can be recorded on a learning contract.

Inclusion and diversity

City & Guilds is committed to improving inclusion and diversity within the way we work and how we deliver our purpose which is to help people and organisations develop the skills they need for growth. More information and guidance to support centres in supporting inclusion and diversity through the delivery of City & Guilds qualifications can be found here: [**Inclusion and diversity | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)**](https://www.cityandguilds.com/uk/en/about-us/inclusion-and-diversity)

Sustainability

City & Guilds are committed to net zero. Our ambition is to reduce our carbon emissions by at least 50% before 2030 and develop environmentally responsible operations to achieve net zero by 2040 or sooner if we can. City & Guilds is committed to supporting qualifications that help our customers to consider sustainability and their environmental footprint.

More information and guidance to support centres in developing sustainable practices through the delivery of City & Guilds qualifications can be found here: [**Our Pathway to Net Zero | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)**](https://www.cityandguilds.com/uk/en/about-us/our-pathway-to-net-zero)

Centres should consider their own carbon footprint when delivering this qualification and consider reasonable and practical ways of delivering this qualification with sustainability in mind. This could include:

- reviewing purchasing and procurement processes (such as buying in bulk to reduce the amount of travel time and energy and considering and investing in the use of resources that can be reused, instead of the use of disposable or single use consumables)
- waste procedures (ensuring that waste is minimised and recycling is in place wherever possible)
- minimising water use and considering options for reuse/salvage wherever possible.

Support materials

The following resources are available for this qualification:

Description	How to access
Qualification handbook	www.nptc.org.uk
Practical assessment guidance	Available only via the assessor secure area www.nptc.org.uk

4 Assessment

Assessment of the qualification

Candidates must successfully complete:

- one practical observation with oral questioning for **each** registered unit

Unit	Title	Assessment method	Where to obtain assessment materials
Unit 212	The principles of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice	Practical observation with oral questioning Externally set, assessed by a City & Guilds NPTC approved assessor, externally verified	Assessors must use the materials provided by City & Guilds. Practical assessment guidance can be downloaded from the assessor secure area of www.nptc.org.uk
Unit 213	The practices of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice	Practical observation with oral questioning Externally set, assessed by a City & Guilds NPTC approved assessor, externally verified	Assessors must use the materials provided by City & Guilds. Practical assessment guidance can be downloaded from the assessor secure area of www.nptc.org.uk

Assessment strategy

City & Guilds has written the following assessments to use with this qualification:

- live practical assessment guidance (practical observation with oral questioning) that can be downloaded from the assessor secure area of the NPTC website.

During the assessment the candidate may refer to operator manuals, training materials or safety publications, but they may not refer to the Qualification Handbook (QHB).

Time constraints

The following **must** be applied to the assessment of this qualification:

- Candidates must complete their assessment within 12 months of initial registration.
- Practical observation and oral questioning should take between 1.5–3 hours.

Summary of responsibilities in preparing for the assessment process

Centre responsibilities	Candidate responsibilities	Assessor responsibilities
A suitable site is made available for the assessment to take place		Ensuring that the site provided is suitable for the assessment to take place
Equipment and materials are available to enable assessment of all the activities to take place	To be familiar with the equipment being used for the assessment	Ensuring that the equipment and materials provided satisfy the assessment requirements
	To bring appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the assessment	Wearing appropriate PPE. Ensuring that candidate's PPE complies with the requirements of the assessment
	To bring relevant training materials (if applicable)	
	To bring a product label, site plan and application record appropriate for the assessment	To ensure that the product label, site plan and application record is appropriate for the assessment (or provide a suitable alternative)

5 Units

Structure of the units

These units each have the following:

- City & Guilds reference number
- title
- level
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH)
- credit value
- unit aim
- assessment method
- Learning Outcomes (LOs), which are comprised of a number of Assessment Criteria (ACs)
- supporting information

Guidance for delivery of the units

This qualification comprises of a number of **units**. A unit describes what is expected of a competent person in particular aspects of their job.

Each unit is divided into **Learning Outcomes (LOs)** which describe in further detail the skills and knowledge that an individual should possess.

Each Learning Outcome (LO) has a set of **Assessment Criteria (ACs)** (performance and knowledge and understanding) which specify the desired criteria that must be satisfied before an individual can be said to have performed to the agreed standard.

Supporting information provides guidance of the evidence requirement for the units, specific guidance on safe practice, and suggested learning resources. Centres are advised to review this information carefully before delivering the unit.

Unit 212 The principles of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice

Level:	2
GLH:	28
Assessment method:	Practical observation with oral questioning
Aim:	The purpose of this unit is for learners to understand the principles of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control for rats and mice.

Learning Outcomes

- LO1 Understand the legislative, regulatory and Codes of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of rodenticides
- LO2 Know how to minimise the risk of human contamination and implement emergency procedures
- LO3 Know how to store and transport rodenticides safely
- LO4 Know the characteristics of rats and mice and their impact on the environment
- LO5 Understand the methods of preventative management and control for rats and mice

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC1.1 Describe the legislative requirements relating to the use of rodenticides	<p>Assessment Criteria 1.1</p> <p>Legislative requirements relating to the use of rodenticides to control rats and mice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Operator's responsibilities under the Health And Safety At Work Act (HASAWA):<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Maintain the health and safety of self and those within the surrounding area.ii) Follow instructions and training provided by the employer.iii) Cooperate with the employer on health and safety procedures in the workplace.b) Requirements under the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA):<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Establish safe, effective and humane methods of controlling pests.ii) Follow product label requirements for correct application of rodenticidesiii) Safeguard the environment and protect the health of humans, flora and fauna.c) Environmental and wildlife considerations in line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Knowledge of species which can be legally treated with rodenticidesii) Carry out an environmental assessment.iii) Check work area for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• protected and non-target species and habitats

- target species signs of activity, pest level and risks.
- iv) Ensure bait is covered and regularly checked.
- v) Use signage to protect the general public, domestic pets and other animals.

AC1.2 Describe the regulatory requirements relating to the use of rodenticides

Assessment Criteria 1.2

Regulatory requirements relating to the use of rodenticides to control rats and mice:

- a) Operator's responsibilities under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations:
 - i) Read, understand and comply with risk assessments for all hazardous substances.
 - ii) Adhere to control measures put in place to reduce risks.
 - iii) Check control measures are working and report any defects promptly.
- b) Requirements under the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations:
 - i) Follow obligations on the purchasing and use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs).
 - ii) Follow obligations on the disposal of PPPs, including packaging.
- c) Requirements from the Biocidal Product Regulations:
 - i) Take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of people.
 - ii) Take all reasonable precautions to protect creatures and the environment.
- d) Requirements from The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations:
 - i) Have had adequate instructions, training and guidance.
 - ii) Application equipment must be inspected at regular intervals to ensure it's in good working order.
 - iii) Check that products being used are currently approved.
 - iv) Operators must follow the statutory conditions of use detailed on the product label.

AC1.3 Describe the Codes of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of rodenticides

Assessment Criteria 1.3

Code of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of rodenticides to control rats and mice:

- a) Operators' responsibilities under CoP:
 - i) The operator applying the rodenticide has received adequate training in the use of rodenticides.
 - ii) Training and certification is required under Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRUU) Stewardship to purchase and use rodenticides.
 - iii) Follow product label requirements for the storage and transportation of rodenticides.
 - iv) Follow reporting procedures for non-target species poisoning:
 - incidents involving fish to the relevant environmental agency.
 - incidents involving wildlife to the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS).
- b) Additional implications of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) CoP relating to rodent control and the safe use of rodenticides:
 - i) Changing the emphasis of rodent control through rodenticides to alternative control methods and practices.
 - rodenticide application to be considered as a temporary solution.
 - concept of 'risk hierarchy' should be at the forefront when deciding a rodent control strategy.

- ii) To hold the appropriate Certificate of Competence (CoC) to purchase rodenticides.
- iii) To have annual Continuous Professional Development (CPD) or five-yearly recertification from January 2026.

AC2.1 Describe possible routes and symptoms of contamination in people

Assessment Criteria 2.1

Possible routes of contamination and symptoms of contamination in people:

- a) Possible routes of contamination:
 - i) Absorption: substances that enter the bloodstream through the surfaces of the body such as the skin and eyes.
 - ii) Inhalation: airborne substances that enter the body through the air that is breathed in.
 - iii) Ingestion: substances that are consumed enter the digestive tract and are absorbed into the bloodstream.
 - iv) Injection: direct and immediate contamination of substances through skin penetration.
- b) Symptoms of contamination in people:
 - i) Nausea.
 - ii) Headache.
 - iii) Blurred vision/watering eyes.
 - iv) Dizziness.
 - v) Dehydration.
 - vi) Stomach or chest pains/tightness.
 - vii) Breathing difficulties.
 - viii) Allergic/anaphylactic reaction.

AC 2.2 State methods of avoiding and reducing contamination to people

Assessment Criteria 2.2

Methods of avoiding and reducing contamination to people:

- a) Methods of avoiding and reducing contamination:
 - i) Maintain personal hygiene, refrain from eating/drinking/smoking when using rodenticides.
 - ii) Use, handle and dispose of rodenticides as directed by the product label.
 - iii) Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as identified on the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) risk assessment.
 - iv) Ensure all bait stations are correctly marked and secured.
- b) Items of PPE used to avoid or reduce contamination:
 - i) Gloves.
 - ii) Coveralls.
 - iii) Footwear.

AC2.3 State procedures for dealing with contamination and accidental spillage

Assessment Criteria 2.3

Procedures for dealing with contamination and accidental spillage:

- a) Procedures for dealing with a contaminated person:
 - i) Protect yourself
 - ii) Identify contamination
 - iii) Contact the emergency services
 - iv) Remove person and relocate to safe area
 - v) Decontaminate
 - vi) Advise to seek medical advice
 - vii) Contact the National Poisons Information Services (NPIS).
 - viii) Information to be made available to NPIS and emergency/medical services:
 - product label.
 - Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Procedure for dealing with an accidental spillage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Contain the spillage, if possible ii) Secure the area iii) Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the emergency services • the appropriate environmental agency
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AC3.1 State the requirements for safe storage and transportation of rodenticides

Assessment Criteria 3.1

Requirements for safe storage and transportation of rodenticides:

- a) Requirements for safe storage of rodenticides:
 - i) Constructed frost-free and ventilated.
 - ii) Kept locked with accessibility by approved users only.
 - iii) Display suitable warning signs.
 - iv) Display emergency and ownership contact details.
 - v) Stock recording system in place.
 - vi) Suitable fire extinguisher present.
 - vii) Products stored off the floor above a bund in a fixed store.
 - viii) All products stored in original container which is tightly closed and labelled.
 - ix) Spill kit available to deal with minor spillages.
- b) Requirements for safe transportation of rodenticides:
 - i) Rodenticide products should not be routinely transported (only required when carrying out a planned treatment).
 - ii) Correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be available.
 - iii) Careful handling to reduce risk of spillage and damage.
 - iv) Containers checked prior to transport to ensure undamaged.
 - v) Record of products being carried documented.
 - vi) Products to be segregated from driver and/or passenger(s) during transport.
 - vii) Spill kit available to deal with minor spillages.

AC4.1 Describe the characteristics of rats

Assessment Criteria 4.1

The characteristics of rats:

- a) Feeding behaviour of rats:
 - i) Feed at two or three familiar points.
 - ii) Average intake is 25 to 30 grams.
 - iii) Avoid new objects and can be bait shy (neophobic).
 - iv) Require access to free water.
- b) Activity patterns of rats:
 - i) Prefer a stable environment.
 - ii) Adapt their activity patterns to the environment and/or group numbers.
 - iii) Active in familiar areas.
 - iv) Can climb rough walls and pipes.

AC4.2 Describe the characteristics of mice

Assessment Criteria 4.2

The characteristics of mice:

- a) Feeding behaviour of mice:
 - i) Feed at many points.
 - ii) Average intake is approximately 3 grams.
 - iii) Are not usually bait shy.
 - iv) Do not require access to free water, can extract moisture from food.
- b) Activity patterns of mice:
 - i) Naturally inquisitive.
 - ii) Good climbers.
 - iii) Often live above the floor.

- iv) Can squeeze through gaps as small as 5mm.

AC4.3 Describe where damage may be caused by rats and mice and the possible implications of the damage

Assessment Criteria 4.3

Where damage may be caused by rats and mice and the possible implications of the damage:

- a) Where damage may be caused by rats and mice:
 - i) Crops and stores.
 - ii) Public areas.
 - iii) Industrial land.
 - iv) Trees and shrubs.
 - v) Banking, railways, rivers, and flood banks.
 - vi) Buildings and structures.
 - vii) Electrical installations and machinery.
- b) Possible implications of the damage caused by rats and mice:
 - i) Reduction in crop values.
 - ii) Costs related to damage and control.
 - iii) Transmission of disease.
 - iv) Public perception.
 - v) Environmental impact.
 - vi) Non-compliance of agricultural crop assurance schemes.
 - vii) Any damage leading to safety implications.

AC5.1 State the types of preventative management, natural control measures and alternative methods of population control for rats and mice

Assessment Criteria 5.1

The types of preventative management, natural control measures and alternative methods of population control for rats and mice:

- a) Types of preventative management for rats and mice:
 - i) Exclusion barriers.
 - ii) Closed containment or removal of potential food sources.
 - iii) Habitat and/or environment changes.
 - iv) Use of repellents and/or sonic devices.
- b) Natural control measures for rats and mice:
 - i) Approximate life expectancy.
 - ii) Natural predators.
 - iii) Species competition.
 - iv) Food availability.
 - v) Weather conditions.
 - vi) Impact of seasons.
- c) Alternative methods of population control for rats and mice:
 - i) Removal of habitats.
 - ii) Canine control.
 - iii) Trapping.
 - iv) Alphachloralose (mice only).
 - v) Aluminium phosphide gas (rats only).
 - vi) Shooting.
- d) When second generation anticoagulants may be used:
 - i) Should be used as a last resort, when:
 - alternative control methods have failed.
 - resistance to first generation anticoagulants is seen.

AC5.2 Describe when baiting may be used and the risk mitigation measures

Assessment Criteria 5.2

When baiting may be used and the risk mitigation measures:

- a) The term "baiting": a procedure of applying baits for up to a set period and then removing the baits.
- b) Risk mitigation measures when considering baiting:
 - i) Appropriate risk assessments are required.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) Only trained and competent professionals to carry out baiting programmes. iii) Sites should be inspected regularly as per product label instructions. c) Issues of resistance to baits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Product becomes ineffective. ii) Increased rodent population. d) Non-target species potentially at risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) When baiting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water voles. • badgers. • deer. • birds, in particular barn owls and kestrels. • domestic animals. • farm animals. • aquatic species. • other non-target mammals. ii) From secondary poisoning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • badgers. • birds, in particular barn owls and kestrels. • domestic animals.

AC5.3 Describe when permanent baiting may be used and the risk mitigation measures

Assessment Criteria 5.3

When permanent baiting may be used and the risk mitigation measures:

- a) The term “permanent baiting”:
 - i) A procedure used in the United Kingdom (UK) by competent professionals.
 - ii) Placement of rodenticide baits with the purpose of preventing the establishment of rodent infestation where one does not currently exist.
 - iii) Conducted only at sites where a high risk of re-invasion is likely and there is a risk to human and animal health.
- b) Reasons permanent baiting may be appropriate indoors:
 - i) Very little risk to non-target animals.
 - ii) Only small quantities of bait are used.
 - iii) Where other alternatives cannot be applied.
- c) Reason permanent baiting may be appropriate outdoors:
 - i) To avoid invasion or re-invasion of rodents where human or animal health could be at risk.
- d) Risk mitigation measures when considering permanent baiting:
 - i) Permanent baiting should not be routine practice.
 - ii) Reasons why alternatives are impractical or unlikely to be effective should be documented.

Unit 213 The practices of using rodenticides for vertebrate pest control, rats and mice

Level:	2
GLH:	28
Assessment method:	Practical observation with oral questioning
Aim:	The purpose of this unit is for learners to use rodenticides for vertebrate pest control for rats and mice.

Learning Outcomes

- LO1 Read and interpret information on a product label
- LO2 Assess the environmental risks relating to the application site
- LO3 Carry out safe and accurate application procedures
- LO4 Know how to carry out post-operational procedures

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC1.1 Read and interpret information on a product label	<p>Assessment Criteria 1.1</p> <p>Information on a product label:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Product information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Product name ii) Active substance(s) (ingredients) iii) Approval number iv) Reason for use v) Expiry date/shelf life. b) Important information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Approved field of use ii) Dose rate. c) Safety precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Operator protection ii) Environmental protection iii) Restrictions on use iv) Specific product precautions. d) Target specific information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Target species ii) Application rate iii) Timing of application(s).
AC2.1 Identify environmental risks to the application site and explain how to minimise these risks	<p>Assessment Criteria 2.1</p> <p>Environmental risks to the application site and how to minimise these risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Environmental factors at risk at the application site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ground conditions. ii) Water courses. iii) Drains. iv) Boreholes.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) Environmental margins/strips/areas. vi) Wildlife. vii) Non-target animal species. viii) Sensitive crops/areas. ix) Housing. x) Public access. xi) Other environmental factors relevant to the site. <p>b) Minimise risks to the application site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Check and maintain application rate. ii) Inform neighbours. iii) Ensure bait stations are marked and secured. iv) Use an appropriate pesticide (minimal environmental impact). v) Use correct baiting product: loose, blocks, paste or bags. vi) Remove all spillages. vii) Appropriate timing of application.

AC2.2 Carry out a site survey to identify signs of rats and mice and non-target species

Assessment Criteria 2.2

Carry out a site survey to identify signs of rats and mice and non-target species:

- a) Natural habitats of rats and mice:
 - i) Outside burrows.
 - ii) Roof spaces.
 - iii) Storage areas.
- b) Signs of infestation for rats and mice:
 - i) Droppings.
 - ii) Smears.
 - iii) Holes.
 - iv) Damage to structures and food.
 - v) Urination pillars.
 - vi) Smell.
 - vii) Runs.
 - viii) Evidence of gnawing.
- c) Signs of non-target species present on site:
 - i) People.
 - ii) Farm animals.
 - iii) Domestic animals.
 - iv) Birds.
 - v) Other mammals.
 - vi) Aquatic species.

AC3.1 Carry out safe and accurate application of the rodenticide

Assessment Criteria 3.1

Safe and accurate application of the rodenticide:

- a) Prepare the site for the application of rodenticide:
 - i) Exclude non-target species from the site
 - ii) Clear vegetation
 - iii) Complete/refer to site plan
 - iv) Position bait stations
 - v) Check warning signs on bait stations.
- b) Safe and accurate application of the rodenticide:
 - i) Use correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - ii) Treatment area clearly identified
 - iii) Comply with product label requirements
 - iv) Accurate placement of rodenticide in bait stations
 - v) Check protection of bait from non-target species.
- c) Completion of an application record must be:
 - i) Accurate
 - ii) Legible.

AC4.1 Explain how to manage and dispose of surplus rodenticide and rodent carcasses

Assessment Criteria 4.1

Managing and disposing of surplus rodenticide:

- a) Methods of reducing rodenticide waste:
 - i) Complete a site survey
 - ii) Ensure there is an active population of rats and mice
 - iii) Accurate amount applied
 - iv) Protect bait from the weather.
- b) Managing surplus rodenticide:
 - i) Spillage:
 - put into the bait container
 - disposed along with any spoilt bait.
 - ii) Bait container:
 - must be completely emptied at the end of the treatment period.
- c) Disposing of waste rodenticide and containers:
 - i) Waste rodenticide is collected by a licenced waste disposal contractor.
 - ii) Container disposal is via a licenced waste disposal contractor.
 - iii) Disposal records must be completed for collection and/or transference of rodenticide waste.
- d) Disposing of rodent carcasses:
 - i) Correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn
 - ii) Rodent bodies are located and removed
 - iii) Disposal according to legislation:
 - buried in appropriate location
 - collected by a licenced waste disposal contractor.
- e) Storage requirements for used bait containers:
 - i) Containers are emptied and:
 - left at the location
 - kept in secure storage.

AC4.2 Describe the follow up procedures after rodenticide treatment

Assessment Criteria 4.2

Follow up procedures after rodenticide treatment:

- a) Requirements for follow up visits:
 - i) Reason.
 - ii) Number.
 - iii) Frequency.
- b) Actions to take during follow up visits:
 - i) Identifying signs to note effectiveness of treatment.
 - ii) Make recommendations for future treatment(s).
 - iii) Correct carcass disposal.
- c) Recording of information at a follow up visit:
 - i) Site map reference.
 - ii) Location of bait points replenished.
 - iii) Visit times/dates.
 - iv) Number of carcasses collected.
 - v) Disposal arrangements.

Supporting information

Evidence requirements

Practical observation and oral questioning by a City & Guilds NPTC approved assessor.

A prepopulated Record Of Assessment (ROA) must be completed by the assessor following an assessment. **All** Assessment Criteria (AC) must be completed as either 'met' or 'not met' for each outcome on the ROA.

The assessment(s) can be achieved at **pass** only. **All** Assessment Criteria (AC) must be met to achieve a pass result, if any AC is not met the candidate is unsuccessful and will fail the assessment.

Candidates who undertake this assessment and have met the requirements are reminded of their legal obligation to receive/undertake appropriate additional training in the use of any equipment that differs from that used during the assessment, but which they are nevertheless qualified to use.

Unit guidance

The delivery of this qualification should be carried out in a real-life working environment with a suitable site and target(s).

Learners should be familiar with all equipment that they are going to use.

Provision must be made to comply with environmental and sustainability regulations and standards; segregation of resources for reuse, recycling and disposal should be implemented.

New technologies should be included within delivery of this qualification to allow learners to practise without wasting products. Artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR) could also be used to deliver knowledge and practical sessions.

It is recommended that the delivery integrates visits/engagement with local industry and employers to ensure that the implementation of legislation, policies, codes of practice and industry best practice are up to date.

Safe practice

The assessor and candidate must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and, if required, Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) during the practical activities.

Assessors must ensure a site-specific risk assessment is carried out and sufficient control measures are implemented.

A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available.

All equipment used in the delivery and assessment of the qualification must comply with manufacturer's guidelines and the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998. Equipment must be used in such a way that the learner, assessor, other persons and/or equipment are not endangered.

A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being terminated and the candidate not meeting the required standard. The assessor may stop the assessment on the grounds of safety at any time at their discretion.

Suggested learning resources

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) information sheet AIS16 & AIS22 Available via:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais16.htm>

Pesticides Code of Practice. Available via: **<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products.htm>**

Think Wildlife. Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU). Available via:

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/code-of-best-practice/crru-code/>

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025: Working for a more sustainable future. Available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-pesticides-national-action-plan-2025/uk-pesticides-national-action-plan-2025-working-for-a-more-sustainable-future>

Voluntary Initiative. Available via: **<https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/>**

Additional information may be sought from the relevant product information or database or any other publication by the government or a government agency

Appendix 1 Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to www.cityandguilds.com or click on the links below:

Centre handbook: quality assurance standards

This document is for all approved centres and provides guidance to support their delivery of our qualifications. It includes information on:

- centre quality assurance criteria and monitoring activities
- administration and assessment systems
- centre-facing support teams at City & Guilds/ILM
- centre quality assurance roles and responsibilities.

The centre handbook should be used to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the centre contract.

Centre assessment: quality assurance standards

This document sets out the minimum common quality assurance requirements for our qualifications that feature centre-assessed components.

It incorporates our expectations for centre internal quality assurance and the external quality assurance methods we use to ensure that assessment standards are met and upheld. It also details the range of sanctions that may be put in place when centres do not comply with our requirements or actions that will be taken to align centre marking/assessment to required standards. Additionally, it provides guidance on administering portfolios and controlled assessments, including a definition of supervised conditions.

Access arrangements: when and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds

This provides full details of the arrangements that may be made to facilitate access to assessments and qualifications for candidates who are eligible for adjustments in assessment.

The **centre document library** also contains useful information on such things as:

- conducting examinations
- registering learners
- appeals and malpractice.

Useful contacts

Please visit the **contact us** section of the City & Guilds website.

City & Guilds

City & Guilds is the global skills partner, empowering people, organisations and economies to develop the skills they need for growth. With almost 150 years of trusted expertise, we support people into work, help them develop on the job and move into the next job.

We work with Governments, employers, training providers, colleges and industry stakeholders to design and deliver high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to meaningful career progression. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility and success. Our solutions span critical sectors including construction, engineering, transport, energy and electrical, serving over 1 million learners annually.

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