



Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use

Development of Courses in
Rodent Pest Management and
Associated Approved Qualifications

Background

Training is a key aspect of professional competence. Those who conduct operations of rodent pest management as a part of their professional duties must be in possession of a wide range of technical information and skills. The possession of this information ensures that work is carried out to the highest professional standard to permit effective rodent control with the minimum risk to humans, both operators and bystanders, non-target animals and the wider environment.

These requirements are applicable to a wide range of individuals, including professional pest control technicians and staff of Local Authorities who conduct rodent management operations on a routine basis, and to those, such as farmers, gamekeepers and land-managers, who conduct rodent pest management periodically.

Rodenticide products placed on the market by manufacturers are of two types: 1) 'amateur' products are intended for members of the general public to control rodents in and around their homes and premises; 2) 'professional' products are intended for use by those who offer a paid professional service of pest control or where it forms a part of their regular operational duties. Usually professional products are sold in packs containing larger quantities of rodenticide. Those who purchase and use rodenticide products intended for use only by professionals are required to possess specialist knowledge that permits such products to be used effectively and safely.

This document describes a framework for approved training courses set out by the Training and Certification Work Group (T&C WG) of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU). This is applied to courses, and their associated syllabuses, intended to provide approved professional qualifications in rodent pest management for the purchase and use of rodenticide products, including those containing second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs) and first-generation anticoagulants (FGARS), as well as other professional use rodenticides.

Possession of an approved qualification obtained after appropriate training, demonstrates professional competence at the point-of-sale and permits purchase of rodenticide products, which are labelled under HSE 'stewardship conditions' as follows:

“To be used only by professional users holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements”.

“Read the label before use. Using this product in a manner that is inconsistent with the label may be an offence. Refer to the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice (or equivalent) for guidance”.

“When this product is supplied to a user for the control of rodents, it shall only be supplied to a professional user holding certification demonstrating compliance with UK rodenticide stewardship regime requirements”.

Training Framework

The training framework operates at four levels. The CRRU Training and Certification Work Group provides co-ordination and oversight, as well as determination of the appropriate course content for all courses leading to an approved qualification (see below) to ensure that they provide an appropriate “proof of professional competence” at point-of-sale.

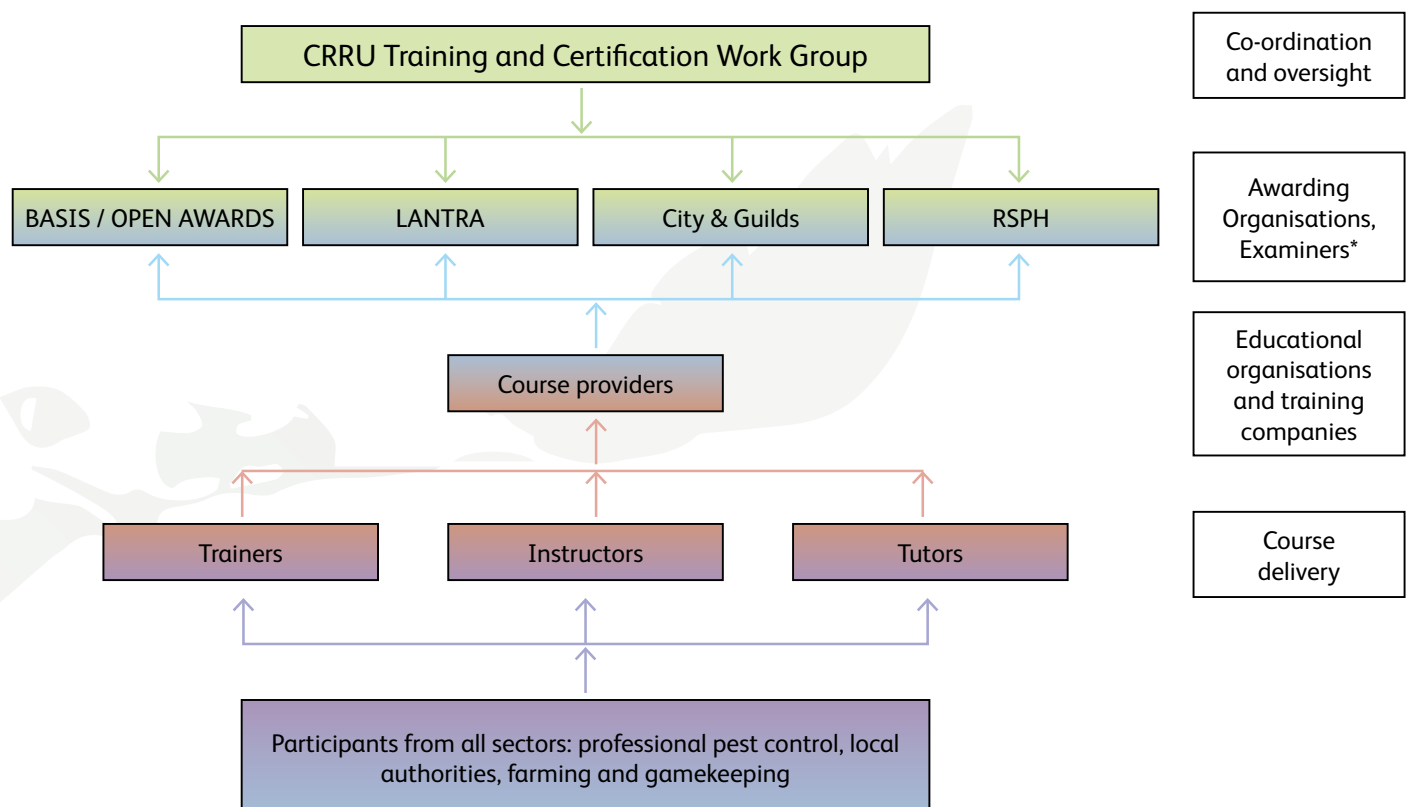
Organisations that provide approved qualifications have developed syllabuses which cover the subject areas set by the CRRU T&C WG. Training companies will develop and offer courses that meet the requirements of these syllabuses.

Trainers/tutor/instructors will deliver courses to participants from all sectors.

Awarding Organisations will set, mark and moderate examinations and set guidelines for invigilation. They also maintain records of trainer performance, keep a register of those participants who have met required standards and provide a training certificate. Awarding Organisations may consult from time to time so that examination procedures and qualifications meet agreed standards.

Awarding Organisations may make appropriate charges for setting and marking examinations and for keeping registers of certified personnel.

Fig. 1. Framework for delivery of courses towards qualification in rodent pest management for professional rodenticide users.



* Other Awarding Organisations may be added when appropriate

Course Structures

Courses leading to approved qualification will have the following attributes:

1. Training courses may employ conventional 'face-to-face' teaching, on-line learning and home learning or a combination of these methods.
2. Training courses must be designed to lead to a qualification via examination.
3. The examination must be set, marked and moderated by an established organisation which provides recognised certification, resulting in a true qualification e.g. ofqual regulated.
4. The exam will be taken either in a secure on-line environment or in an invigilated environment. Exam marking should not be carried out by those who teach the course.
5. Attainment of the required standard in the examination by a candidate will result in the provision of a training certificate, indicating the achievement of a qualification.
6. Examples of relevant Awarding Organisations for different user sectors are:
 - a. RSPH
 - b. BASIS / Open Awards
 - c. City and Guilds
 - d. LANTRA
 - e. Others when appropriate
7. The organisations which award qualifications must maintain a register of qualified personnel and maintain a record of the exam pass rates for each trainer and/or training agency that offers the course.
8. The training may be either broadly based or may be intended for those who conduct rodent pest management in specific and defined circumstances. However, certain common subject areas will be required from all approved courses (see below).
9. As well as these common required subject areas, courses may address specific types of application, for example by particular user groups such as farmers, gamekeepers and professional pest control technicians, or specific areas such as sewers, food handling establishments, animal husbandry units and waste management facilities.
10. The amount of training time required by each course will be proportional to the scope of the course in terms of the number of different use scenarios presented. Broader courses covering more use scenarios would be expected to require longer contact periods.
11. The organisation that awards the qualification, or another organisation, may maintain a facility for monitoring continuing professional development (CPD) to ensure that knowledge remains up-to-date.

Necessary Course Content:

Those who attend a course leading to an approved qualification, take and pass the examination and attain the qualification should have a sufficiently comprehensive understanding of the following subject areas to permit them to carry out safe and effective rodent management operations. However, the extent to which each subject area is addressed in a course should be relevant to the candidates attending the course:

- a. Reasons for rodent pest management.
- b. Importance of the product label and the information it provides. Regulation and legislation relevant to rodent pest management.
- c. Biology and behaviour of rodent pest species.
- d. Aspects of the ecology and behaviour of non-target species relevant to rodent management activities.
- e. The 'Risk Hierarchy'. Concept of 'severity' of rodent management interventions. Implementation of rodent management strategies which involve the use of interventions that are 'least severe - but effective'.
- f. Potential risks to human and animal health and of environmental contamination from the use of rodenticides. Routes of exposure and appropriate measures to reduce risks. Current extent of wildlife contamination with rodenticides. Training should include instruction about the conduct of an Environmental Assessment and other relevant risk assessment procedures.
- g. Consideration of appropriate treatment outcomes for different use scenarios. For example circumstances in which complete rodent eradication may be required and where it is not.
- h. Elements that may comprise a safe and effective Integrated Rodent Management programme that is proportionate and relevant to the user group receiving the training. These may include rodent survey, physical control techniques, chemical control techniques, environmental management and monitoring.
- i. Use of rodenticides in practice, including: effective and safe methods of bait application in use scenarios appropriate to the participants (such as sewers, in and around buildings, open areas and waste dumps), the requirement to search for and safely dispose of rodent carcasses, what to do in the case of accidental exposure or consumption of baits by human and animal non-targets.
- j. Anticoagulant resistance; where it is found and what its practical effects are. Techniques to adopt to avoid the development of resistance and to overcome resistant infestations.
- k. Aspects for consideration at the closure of a rodenticide application including measures necessary to prevent re-infestation, such as housekeeping, habitat modification and proofing of vulnerable structures.
- l. The importance and benefits of record-keeping.
- m. Safe storage of rodenticide products and safe disposal of spent bait.

Approved certification / qualifications are listed here: <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/>



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