

Title	IMDG Code 2016 / SUPPLEMENT / Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships / 4
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4 CONTROL OF RODENT PESTS

4.1

General

4.1.1

In regard to rodent control, ships are subject to the provisions of the WHO's International Health Regulations.

4.1.2

Rodents may be controlled by fumigation, by the use of a bait incorporating a poison which acts within a few minutes (acute poison) or one which acts over a period (chronic poison), or by trapping.

4.2

Fumigation and baiting

4.2.1

Fumigation against rodents is normally done at dosages and periods of exposure much less than those required for insect control. It follows that an insect fumigation also controls rodents in areas that are treated. However, rodent control often requires fumigation of accommodation and working spaces that may not normally be treated for insect control.

4.2.2

Fumigation against rodents alone should be undertaken in port and ventilation completed in port. The precautions in 3.4.2 should be observed.

4.2.3

Methods involving fumigation or the use of acute poisons should be employed only by qualified personnel of pest control servicing firms or appropriate authorities (e.g. port health authorities). Baits containing acute poisons should be collected and disposed of by such personnel when the treatment is completed. Chronic poisons should be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions contained on the label or on the package itself.

4.3

Rodent baits (Chronic poisons permitted for use by ship's personnel)

4.3.1

Careless use may cause injury to ship's personnel.

4.3.2

For rodenticides to be efficient, they should be placed where the rodents are moving. Runways are usually detected by evidence of marking, debris and dirt. The use of rodenticides, however, is no substitute for high standards of hygiene and the rodent-proofing of equipment whenever possible.

4.3.2.1

Baits should be protected from accidental consumption by humans or domestic animals and from contact with human and animal food.

4.3.2.2

Where practicable, cereal baits should be replaced within 30 days to avoid providing a source of insect infestation.

4.3.3

A record should be kept of the locations in which baits are set, particular care being taken to search for and remove all baits from cargo spaces prior to the loading of bulk foodstuffs and livestock cargoes.