

ST HELENA



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT ORDINANCE, 1940

RABBIT CONTROL AND DESTRUCTION TRIAL RULES, 2017

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Agriculture and Livestock Improvement Ordinance, 1940, the Governor in Council makes the following Rules:

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Rabbit Control and Destruction Trial Rules, 2017.

Interpretation

2. In these rules—
“**authorised officer**” means the Head of Agriculture and Natural Resources and such other persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint;
“**baiting stations**” means a partially enclosed area such as a half drum;
“**Department**” means the Directorate or Department within the Government which is for the time being charged with responsibility for the environment and natural resources;
“**poison**” means Pindone used for the baiting of rabbits;
“**trial period**” means the period from January 2018 to December 2018.

Locations of trials

3. The Department must undertake rabbit monitoring and control trials in the form of poison baiting across the following sites as shown on the Rabbit Control Zones Map in the Schedule, for a period of time within the trial period that the Department deems appropriate:

- (a) Central Basin;
- (b) Site Compound;
- (c) Tungi Flats;
- (d) Dry Gut; and
- (e) Cooks Bridge to the Central Basin layby (along the edge of the Haul Road).

Duties of the Department

4. (1) The Department must—
- (a) erect motion activated cameras at the baiting station locations to confirm activity and record the particulars on species eating the bait;

- (b) undertake pre-baiting activities using un-poisoned bait to get an indication of species taking the bait before introducing the poison;
- (c) carry out monthly rabbit pellet count surveys during the trial period, including an initial survey prior to baiting works being commenced and a month after trials are completed.

(2) Surveys under sub-rule (1)(c) must be undertaken through transects of 10 survey points at 25 metres intervals across the sites referred to in rule 3.

Mitigate risk

5. (1) To mitigate the risk of contamination and secondary poisoning effects, the Department must—

- (a) ensure that the locations of baiting station sites are at a distance of 100 metres as a minimum from any water course;
- (b) use baiting stations and fencing;
- (c) use bait specifically designed to deter bird take;
- (d) check all baiting stations and cameras within a minimum period of 3 days;
- (e) ensure disposal and incineration of rabbit carcasses by a competent contractor with previous rabbit control and rodent baiting experience;
- (f) remove and incinerate any bait (along with any portion of soil that has come in contact with the poison) which has not been eaten within 3 days;
- (g) undertake risk assessments for all activities and keep written records for a period of 6 years;
- (h) ensure that when there are periods of heavy rain, no poison will be set.

(2) Handling and storage of all hazardous substances must be undertaken in accordance with the safety instructions and guidelines for use issued by the manufacturer of the substance.

(3) If it has been observed that the poison has been taken by non-target species on a regular basis or there is evidence of environmental contamination, the trials must be stopped immediately.

(4) The Department must—

- (a) provide information by way of press releases and radio interviews to inform the general public of the trial, the areas of the bait stations and measures the public need to take to ensure pets are not affected by the poison; and
- (b) erect signs at the locations of trial sites to inform the general public of any health and safety considerations, to explain why the trial is taking place and to provide contact details for any questions or concerns.

Import of poison

6. The Department may import a reasonable amount of poison as may be required to undertake the trial.

Power of entry

7. An authorised officer or his or her representative may enter any of the sites referred to in rule 3 for purposes of inspecting the land and enforcing these rules.

Offences

8. A person who obstructs an authorised officer or his or her representative in the execution of duties commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £40.

SCHEDULE

(Insert Rabbit Control Zones map)

Made by the Governor in Council this day of 2017.

Lydia H. D. Buchanan
Clerk of Councils

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Rules)

The purpose of these Rules is to make provision for a trial period during which poison baiting stations will be set in prescribed zones in order to monitor and control the rabbit population. The trial period commences on 1 January 2018 and ends on 31 December 2018.