



Organic Food Federation

Explanatory Note 305

These notes are intended to help applicants comply with Organic EC Regulation 2092/91. They are not exhaustive and are for explanation only. In cases of doubt the Regulation or the OFF should be consulted.

Pesticides for use on crops are not covered by this Explanatory but are defined in OFF Arable Standards.

Pest Control in Organic Premises

1. Good Manufacturing Practice (See also E Note 21)

- 1.1 Good housekeeping, cleanliness and regular turnaround of goods and materials are surest ways of minimising problems associated with rodents, insects and birds.
- 1.2 All windows should be kept closed unless protected by suitable mesh screens and exterior doors should either be fitted with self-closing doors or overlapping plastic strip curtains. Exterior doors when closed should be suitably proofed to prevent ingress of birds and rodents.
- 1.3 There should be a clear perimeter around the entire premises that **MUST** be kept free of accumulated rubbish and stored equipment, pallets etc.
- 1.4 All waste paper and food material **MUST** be stored in closed containers that are emptied regularly. All spillages surrounding waste storage facilities **MUST** be cleared up immediately.

2. Flying Insects

- 2.1 The use of electric fly killers is recommended and sufficient units should be installed to provide effective control of flying insects in all production and packing areas, (other than where there is a risk of dust explosion when the unit is in operation).
- 2.2 Flour moth can be controlled by the use of pheromone traps.

3. Crawling Insects

- 3.1 The use of any synthetic insecticide in premises in which organic materials, work in progress or products are stored is forbidden and only natural pyrethrins can be used when the need arises. If any other insecticide is used the organic materials in the vicinity **MUST** be de-classified to non-organic, and no organic materials can be brought into the vicinity where spaying took place for at least 7 days. No organo-phosphorus insecticides may be used on site.
- 3.2 If fumigation of organic materials is necessary as a last resort to prevent further contamination, they **MUST** lose their organic status and the event must be recorded, dated and signed. The Organic Food Federation **MUST** also be informed of such an eventuality with full details of the proposed treatment, **PRIOR** to the event.

4. Rodents

- 4.1 No rodenticides should be used in production areas, although non-poisonous monitoring baits may be used providing there is no risk of contamination.
- 4.2 To prevent contamination baits and poisons should be on a wax or fatty substrate and grain baits should not be used. All bait containers should be spill proof and should be dated to show the last time they had been changed.

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- 4.3 Traps can be used but their operation must be humane and not cause unnecessary suffering to the animal.

5. Control of Chemicals

- 5.1 Any Pest Control contractor who is engaged on a single or a regular basis **MUST** be informed that organic materials are stored and processed on site, and that they must take all due precautions to prevent loss of organic integrity.
- 5.2 There **MUST** be a map drawn up to show the position of all baits and monitors as well as electric fly killers and insect traps. All bait stations **MUST** be numbered and clearly marked on the adjacent wall to enable them to be accounted for at all times.
- 5.3 Storage of insecticides and/or rodenticides inside food production or storage areas must not be practiced. All such chemicals **MUST** be clearly labelled and should be held and dispensed by a licensed pest control contractor or stored in a locked space dedicated for the purpose. COSHH safety sheets **MUST** be kept for all pest control chemicals.
- 5.4 Records **MUST** be kept of all treatments carried out, detailing the type of infestation, the control method and materials used, and the area of storage or processing receiving the treatment.

5.5 Permitted Treatments

(reprinted from DEFRA Standards for Pest Control in the processing and storage of organic products but re-numbered)

	Name	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
5.5.1	Freezing, heating & vacuum, Nitrogen & Carbon dioxide	For treatment of products and packaging.
5.5.2	Mechanical barriers, sound & light, <u>including UV.</u>	
5.5.3	Electrical insect killers.	
5.5.4	Licensed rodent baits.	For rodent control, tamper evident bait stations containing legally approved pesticides. In locations where there is no risk of contamination.
5.5.5	Pheromone traps & sticky boards, <u>not containing pesticides</u>	Where the latter are used for rodent control, they must be in accordance with British Pest control Association Code of Practice (Appendix 1).
5.5.6	Diatomaceous earth & Amorphous silica.	Dessicant dusts derived from naturally occurring sources.
5.5.7	Bait stations for crawling insects containing insecticides	

5.6 Restricted Treatments

(reprinted from UKROFS Standards for Pest Control in the processing and storage of organic products but re-numbered)

	Name	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
5.6.1	Pyrethrins, extracted from a natural botanical source and synergised using Piperonyl butoxide (BPO) derived from a natural source e.g. oil and sarssafra.	When using as a surface treatment, space spray or fog for insect control, any organic products or contact packaging must be removed or protected in such a way as to form an effective barrier to contact with the spraying agent. The barrier is to remain in place for 24 hours after the spraying has taken place. Adequate ventilation and cleaning of contact surfaces must take place after the 24 hour withdrawal period and prior to resumption of processing or organic food within the treated area.
5.6.2	Synthetic pyrethroids.	<u>Band spraying wall/floor joints, machinery bases and entrances.</u>

5.6.3 Permission to use restricted treatments under any other circumstances should be sought in advance from the certification body. The application should detail reasons for use, substance and details of the procedures to avoid product contamination. In exceptional circumstances, treatment may be carried out and the certification body notified within two working days. Certification bodies should not issue consecutive retrospective permission.

5.7 Prohibited Treatments

5.7.1 No control substance can be used unless it is specifically permitted or there has been a documented case of need to support the use of a restricted substance.

5.7.2 In premises in which organic and conventional materials are stored or processed, only the methods permitted for organic can be used.