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Update

NPMA LIBRARY UPDATE

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Newly Released: Pest Management Standards for Food Plants 2008

At PestWorld 2007 in Orlando, the NPMA Pest Management Standards for Food Plants 2008 were released at an educational session attended by companies servicing the food industry. As the food industry is a trillion dollar industry in the United States alone, these standards have far reaching effects not only in the United States but worldwide.

Review of the History of the Standards

The standards were developed in 2006 by NPMA in response to inconsistencies in the field on the part of expectations of the third party food safety auditors. The "Big

Four" auditing groups are: AIB International, NSF Cook and Thurber, ASI Food Safety Consultants, and Silliker. Also, other groups such as the International Association of Operative Millers and YUM participated in discussions and development. Each of these groups has many auditors worldwide conducting food safety/sanitation audits on behalf of their clients.

The standards became effective in 2007. The food industry and the auditing groups embraced the standards and implemented them to varying degrees in 2007. As part of the ongoing process, NPMA releases new standards each year in order to keep them current. Each year at PestWorld, the new standards will be released.



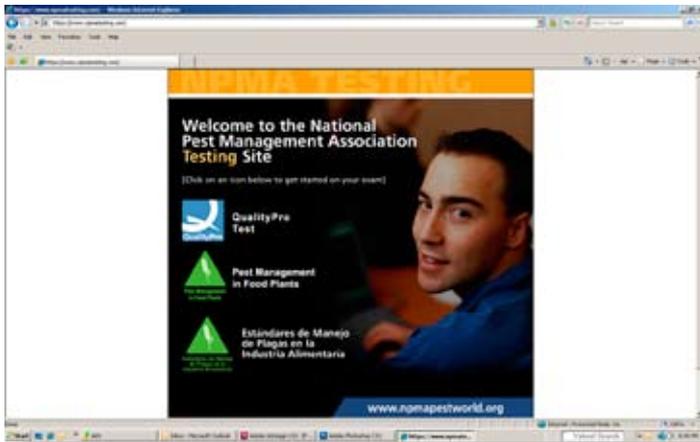
**Pest Management
in Food Plants**

One key accomplishment is that these are not just optional “guidelines” but are standards. The existence of these standards is unique as it is the first time that the NPMA Board of Directors approved permission to develop “standards.”

2008 Improvements Input

The 2008 standards were developed after receiving input from pest management companies worldwide. While many view the standards as domestic, these are truly international. Besides firm support in North America, countries exporting products also are subject to third party auditors and therefore are working on implementation. There were several areas that were updated for 2008; however, note that there were few significant changes which would alter operations.

Visit the NPMA testing Web site at www.npmatesting.com



The five sections of the standards remain as:

1. Personnel
2. Pest Management Plan
3. Reporting
4. Recordkeeping and Contracts
5. National Organic Program

Globalization

Several sections were changed to reflect globalization of the standards. For example, some vehicle requirements would not be applicable in other countries. Auto insurance with high limits is in general, a North American phenomenon. In response to these variations, language was clarified to make the standards more “international” and deferring to requirements in other countries.

Implementation Assistance

For sections where implementation guidance is necessary, references were added to include information on resources available to assist companies in efficiently meeting requirements. For example, as technicians need to be tested, the standards now explain the testing Web site. When respiratory safety training is required, the standards now explain resources to help in developing such a plan.

The testing Web site, www.npmatesting.com, is referenced. This site is the one stop implementation site where standards are posted, exam preparation is explained, federal requirements are listed, and the exam can be taken. Hard copies of study materials including the 2008 Study Guide can be purchased online.

Rodent Matrix

The most revolutionary part of the standards is also the original impetus for developing the standards. Rodent control is a key component in servicing food plants, and the Matrix was developed last year setting frequency of service and specifies spacing of stations based upon history only. Previously, the Matrix compared history versus sensitivity. Sensitivity was too subjective and has been replaced by potential with an explanation of how potential is evaluated. Also, the history versus potential

Rodent Matrix:

Excerpted from the 2008 Standards, the Rodent Matrix is explained as follows:

As a result of an initial inspection, examination of history, and discussions with plant personnel, the level of rodent control program area can be developed. This is history versus the potential. If the plant is totally sealed, and there is minimal chance of infestation by rodents, then the potential is reduced. If there is ample raw material exposed, or open doors on the building exterior, then the potential is much higher.

FOR HISTORY:

- *Category 3* denotes no significant evidence or history in the building in the past year;
- *Category 2* denotes no significant evidence or history in the past six months;
- *Category 1* denotes significant evidence or history in the past six months. The following Matrix can determine the level of the control program necessary. The category assignment of 1 is most intense.

FOR POTENTIAL:

Potential is determined by plant maintenance such as holes, unsealed pipe chases, etc., and operations such as open doors, at grade loading docks, etc., and surrounding rodent pressure.

- *Category 3* denotes no significant potential for infestation due to plant maintenance and operations, and rodent pressure;
- *Category 2* denotes medium potential for infestation due to plant maintenance and operations, and rodent pressure;
- *Category 1* denotes high potential for infestation due to plant maintenance and operations, and rodent pressure.

RODENT CONTROL EXTERIOR PROGRAM DEPTH MATRIX

Potential and History: Potential for Infestation
Intensity Increases from 3 to 1 (*One is most intense, two is medium, and three is least intense*).

		HISTORY		
		3	2	1
POTENTIAL	3	6	5	4
	2	5	4	3
	1	4	3	2

The potential score based upon the listed criteria must be determined by and is at the sole discretion of the pest management company. The history score must also be determined as previously noted. They are then added together to get a matrix score, which is the italicized score on the matrix.

FREQUENCY OF SERVICE, EXTERIOR AREAS

For the exterior of buildings: If the score is 2, 3, or 4, then the exterior service interval must be at least twice monthly. If the score is 5 or 6, the exterior service may be monthly. Results of the analysis and conclusions should be reviewed by and accepted by plant contact and may be reviewed periodically.

Also, exterior servicing spacing of stations is contingent upon the history score. Most plants and auditors still require use of stations outside. Research being conducted now by some food manufacturers may shed light on necessary changes, but the conclusions are not yet determined. This section was clarified to read as follows ...

Exterior Perimeter

Property Perimeter — If an exterior property perimeter program is utilized, then based upon history only, rodent control equipment, such as, but not limited to rodent bait stations or multiple-catch traps, shall be placed along property perimeter areas (e.g. fence lines or outer boundaries) at the rate of:

- For History Category 1: Spacing of not more than 50 feet
- For History Category 2: Spacing of 50-75 feet
- For History Category 3: Spacing of up to 100 feet

Exterior Building Areas (buildings at or near exterior walls of buildings on plant property) — Based upon history, rodent bait stations shall be placed along building exterior areas at the rate of:

- For History Category 1: Spacing of not more than 25 feet
- For History Category 2: Spacing of between 25-50 feet
- For History Category 3: Spacing of up to 75 feet

Rodent control devices should be added adjacent to doors, docks and ramps to the level of History Category 1 at least, but may be placed adjacent to any exterior opening per company practices.

score is now better explained so that when the history score is determined, it can be matched with the potential score and the resulting number, then, is the Matrix score which determines frequency of service.

See sidebar on previous page for details of the Rodent Matrix.

Insect Control

Under Insect Control, insect light trap placement specifications were updated and clarified. While the standards still defer to the manufacturers' recommendations, in the absence of such recommendations the standards now set height requirements for placement based upon field information.

Testing

The testing requirements have not changed in that each technician servicing a plant must be trained in food plant servicing and must also pass the NPMA test, as required by the auditors. As of November, 2007, over 1,200 technicians have taken the exam. The Web site www.npmatesting.com has all information on testing as well as English and Spanish testing abilities.

Future

These standards have been reviewed by hundreds of professionals in our industry as well as the food industry and even regulatory personnel. The 2009 revisions will be developed starting in summer of 2008. Any suggestions should be submitted to NPMA not later than June 1, 2008 for the 2009 version. These standards have been extremely successful, thus further enhancing our role as protectors of food.

