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Copesan is an alliance of regional pest management companies that are united as a single entity for the sole purpose of providing quality pest solutions to businesses with locations throughout North America.

## Verdict Still Out on Some Mosquito Luring Traps

By Richard Berman, Technical Director, Waltham Services

Insect electrocutors are not effective for mosquito control. But there are new classes of devices using odors, heat, light, carbon dioxide and other elements that have the potential for controlling mosquitoes. These devices have not been fully, and correctly, tested in the field. We may know more about them in the near future.

For example, our company worked with the Mosquito Magnet and field tested it at four different locations—two golf courses, a residence, and an institutional site. The device did NOT make a difference in the level of mosquitoes present at these sites. Each of these locations experienced lots of mosquitoes before, during, and after the trap installation.

Regarding mosquito trap luring ability, there is still no published data that says these devices work as stand-alone controls for mosquitoes, despite manufacturer claims. The claims made are usually supported by non-scientific testimonials.

Will these devices catch mosquitoes? Yes. But not all mosquitoes are created equal. Not all mosquitoes bite people. According to the American Mosquito Control Association, and according to mosquito researchers, different traps catch different mixes of mosquitoes.

To determine which traps work best, if they work at all, more research is needed. The research should test

mosquito skin-landing rates before and after trap use. This research should be conducted outdoors, not in confined lab situations where other factors exist, such as daylight, humidity, temperature and air currents, among other factors. Indoor testing under controlled conditions does not necessarily equate to real world use outdoors.

Such work is going on now, so we may know more in the future about mosquito trap comparative efficacy.

With all this said, these devices will not keep a defined outdoor area clear of mosquitoes, as claimed by the manufacturers. Breeding source reduction and the use of repellents will be more effective, but if combined with the use of these traps, they may have a synergistic effect and provide a more comfortable outdoor environment.

Breeding source site reduction cannot be downplayed. According to Mike Potter at the University of Kentucky, the following steps should be done at every opportunity:

1. Dispose of old tires, buckets, plastic sheeting and any other objects outside that can trap and hold water.

2. Keep gutters clear by removing leaves, pine needles and other debris that can trap and hold water.

I have found gutters breeding mos-

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quitoes in the heat of the summer when it hasn't rained for weeks. Water trapped by pine needle accumulations is conducive to pest breeding.

3. Change water in birdbaths and wading pools every few days. Aerating ornamental pools or pools with fish can discourage mosquitoes from breeding.

4. Filling or draining low spots in the ground that will trap water is very helpful to discourage breeding.

5. Avoid over irrigating lawns to prevent standing wet spots.

Chemical treatment alternatives can still be applied and are very effective. They are effective when the label directions and precautions are followed and common sense is used.

Standing pools of water that cannot be eliminated can be treated with biological control agents (e.g., BT) or insect growth regulators, such as methoprene.

Applying insecticide sprays (usually a synthetic pyrethroid) into low-lying bushes, shrubs and shaded areas, like under decks and along foundations, can give some temporary relief from biting mosquitoes. Some companies are doing this and reporting excellent results.

If mosquitoes are a chronic problem in your area, talk to your Copesan service center's mosquito specialist for the latest recommendations.



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## ULV Pesticide Applications In Commercial Facilities

By Kim Kelley-Tunis, Training Director, McCloud Services

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**U**ltra Low Volume (ULV) pesticide applications have long been used in commercial facilities, especially in the food industry, to quickly eliminate visible pests. However, the practice of routine and "scheduled" ULV applications has come into question recently, especially as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

How do you determine whether or not to use ULV as an effective treatment option in food facilities? A successful IPM program begins with strong communication between both the pest management professional (PMP) and the facility representative.

A lack of communication and understanding can often cause problems.

The two most common communications breakdowns are: misusing, or misunderstanding the common terms within the industry; and, allowing tradition, rather than sound science, to dictate current practices.

In the first instance, at a recent seminar for a large food industry manufacturer, the terms "fogging" and "fumigation" were used interchangeably by food industry personnel. To avoid confusion, these terms must be clearly defined and used correctly. In fact, the term "fogging" should

almost never be used. In its place, the term "ULV" should always be used. It's more descriptive of the pesticide application method, and facility managers can research the term through both literature searches and the Internet.

Secondly, are you allowing tradition to influence pest management within a commercial facility? In many cases it's easier to continue to schedule ULV treatments, often months in advance. These scheduled events often coincide with the impending arrival of a third-party or in-house auditor, or scheduled for normal facility downtimes. This practice may be widely accepted

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### ***How do you determine whether or not to use ULV as an effective treatment option in food facilities? A successful IPM program begins with strong communication between both the pest management professional (PMP) and the facility representative.***

within the food industry but it doesn't address, or solve, the real problem that may exist within a facility.

These two problem situations can be minimized, or eliminated, with strong communication between the facility and the pest management professional (PMP) when deciding whether or not to use ULV as an application option. Once the decision has been made to use ULV, success depends on a sound plan and proper execution.

How do you maximize the effectiveness of this option? During the planning process, the PMP and facility personnel must not only focus on the type of insects that are being

targeted, but also the types of product within the facility, the amount of equipment and product, the storage and production practices and the general layout/design of the facility. Overlooking any of these can result in an application failure.

The identity of the pest infesting a facility is always important when selecting any application method. However, it's even more important when conducting a ULV application. In most cases, ULV applications are scheduled for dates and times that are convenient for the facility, but not the PMP or the targeted insects. Applications take place during times when the facility and production is shut down, and in most cases when

the insects are not active. To increase success, ULV applications should be scheduled for those times when the targeted pests are most active.

The pesticide label for some ULV approved products can be confusing and not very helpful. For example, directions are often generalized and not specific for the size and layout of the facility, the materials and equipment present, various indoor environmental conditions, etc. How high is the ceiling or the area to be treated? Do some products and surfaces need to be covered or protected? What has to be removed? Are there any hidden pest infestations? What are the critical areas? It's important to read and understand the pesticide label; however, it is also important to think, ask questions, and plan accordingly.

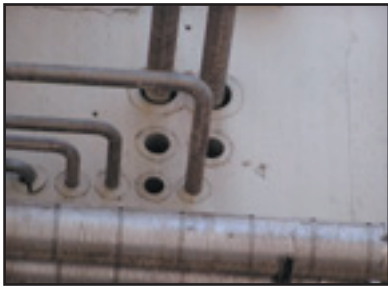
ULV pesticide applications are important tools in the IPM toolbox, but like any tool, correct and careful use is critical to success.



## Restrictions on Outdoor Rodent Baiting Pending

By Keith Willingham, Training & Technical Director, Western Exterminator Co.

**R**egulations are now being considered by the EPA that would restrict the use of anticoagulant ingredients in rodenticides. One county in California is looking at limiting the use of anticoagulants and has already approached the county's Health Department and other agencies asking for feedback.



There's much talk about this now, but very little data showing that anticoagulants cause secondary poisoning.

If a preponderance of scientific data ultimately does point to the need to eliminate anticoagulants, then changes of some kind should be made. If the data shows otherwise, we can't let hysteria force unnecessary, and possibly disastrous, changes.

Pest management professionals (PMPs) are committed to protecting the public. Part of that commitment is to show proper respect for the environment. We aim to prevent rodents from invading a building, and killing them if they do. Obviously, rodents can cause

health problems for humans. But in controlling them we don't want to cause harm to non-target animals.

These regulations may or may not come to pass, but if they do, facility managers and PMPs should know there are some viable mechanical alternatives available.

One alternative involves clearing weeds and low hanging bushes away from a facility's perimeter to remove what could be a safe habitat for rodents. Another alternative is making sure the building is sealed tightly. Additionally, look for, and remove, potential food attractants outside the facility, keep trash collection areas clean, and eliminate water leaks that will attract rats and mice. The goal of the facility and PMP will continue to be finding, and eliminating, conducive conditions that could lead to a pest concern. With the potential loss of one of our major tools in stopping rodents before they enter a facility, the emphasis on finding and eliminating these conducive conditions will be more critical.



Not all rodent control tools are disappearing. Potentially losing anticoagulants just means utilizing other tools. If mice are a major problem, multi-catch mouse traps can be placed outside. Mouse or rat traps can also be used inside exterior bait stations. These "trapping" stations need to be checked more frequently, maybe even weekly. Dead rodents in the stations will attract flies and other insect pests.

There are also other baits available for outside control. One of them is Quintox with Vitamin K, but the industry doesn't have a lot of long-term experience with it.



It really comes down to working more closely in a partnership composed of facility people and PMPs. We must be conscious of the fact that we may see more rodent activity outside because some of our tools are being taken away. But we can adjust for that. It's just a matter of being flexible and working effectively together.



## U.S. Adopts International Standards for Wood Packaging Materials

By Pat Hottel, Technical Director, McCloud Services

**A**s of September 16, 2004, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) amended some of its regulations that impact fumigation professionals and their importer/exporter clients. The amendment calls for United States importers and exporters of unmanufactured wood articles to adopt ISPM 15, an international standard which was approved three years ago by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

That standard, entitled "Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade", allows wood packaging material to either be heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide, in accordance with uniform, international guidelines, and marked with an improved international stamp mark that certifies treatment.

While the USDA's amended regulation, which goes into effect on September 16, 2005 is intended to prevent transporting such pests as the pinewood nematode, pine shoot beetles, and Asian longhorned beetle from one country to another, it's also intended to make prevention easier by complying with the international standard of the

IPPC Guidelines.

Adopting a uniform international standard means that U.S. companies will not need to comply with one set of solid wood packaging materials requirements for goods exported from the U.S., and another set of requirements for goods imported into the U.S.

Using solid wood packaging materials that have been treated and marked according to the IPPC Guidelines will also reduce the practice of retreating the material prior to its reuse. Retreating was done to assure the receiving country that treated materials were included in the shipment. This reduction in retreatment will reduce costs to importers and will also reduce unnecessary emissions of MB associated with unnecessary retreatments.

Fumigators, and their importer/exporter clients, need to make sure that they're in compliance with the international regulations when treating wood pallets or crates. If they are not, the receiver could either send it back or destroy it. Either way, it could be quite costly for those companies shipping overseas.

Another cautionary note: Even though the IPPC Guidelines make procedures more uniform,

some differences still exist from country to country. For instance, Australia requires a total debarking of wood. Other countries don't. And different nations are adopting the international standard at different times. The EU for example, adopted it March 1, 2005. So it's important to become aware of each country's regulations and timetable for adopting the international standard.

More information can be found at: [www.palletcentral.com/ExportTreatment/Export-TreatmentProg.asp](http://www.palletcentral.com/ExportTreatment/Export-TreatmentProg.asp) or talk to your Copesan fumigation specialist.



## What is the Role of NWPCA?

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the agency responsible for implementing ISPM 15 in the United States, has designated the National Wood Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) as the manager of the fumigation program (and the American Lumber Standards Committee as manager of the heat treatment program).

The NWPCA, in turn, accredits and monitors wood inspection agencies (companies) in their function of certifying treatments of solid wood packaging materials.

According to the NWPCA, authorized inspection agencies

control the stamp(s) that are used to mark treated wood packaging materials (e.g., wood pallets). A fumigator, a wood packaging manufacturer, or a company using wood packaging materials in their exports can arrange with an inspection agency to use their stamp to mark treated wood.

The stamp shows the ISPM 15 approved logo, the assigned code for the stamper, the treatment method (methyl bromide), and the country of origin. The mark must be applied to at least two sides of the pallet or container. The date of the application and the lot number must also appear on one side.

The stamp can only appear on pallets treated by a certified fumigator registered with an inspection agency in the NWPCA fumigation program. Any fumigator licensed by his or her state in the use of methyl bromide is eligible for participation in the fumigation program.

In a process designed to assure the integrity of the fumigation program, the inspection agency audits the fumigator's records. The NWPCA in turn audits the records of the inspection agencies. Documentation is obviously critical to the fumigation program.



Information in this publication was researched and prepared by highly regarded experts within the pest management industry that are part of the Copesan Partnership. Copesan has more technical expertise located throughout North America than any other pest management firm. The IPM Update is a small sampling of that knowledge and expertise we provide to our clients.

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