

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Risk assessment is a requirement of several Pesticide Control Orders including 1080 and Pindone, prior to baiting. Risk assessments should consider items such as all the impacts on non-target species and the safe deployment of bait products.

The following should be considered as a **guide only** and is not an exhaustive list of risks that need to be considered when undertaking a baiting program. The Authorised Control Officer (ACO), who would normally distribute baits in that area, should consider any specific or local issues that may constitute a risk. The ACO will need to take account of all the relative risks when deciding whether to proceed with a baiting program.

A risk assessment may assist to demonstrate that all risks were assessed and recorded and due diligence was paid to safe and humane practise.

1080/Pindone risk assessment guide

When undertaking a risk assessment consider:

1. **Can the requirements of the Pesticide Control Order or label be met?**

If not, then the program cannot proceed.

2. **Are there risks to human safety?**

Assess the risk and whether the program can proceed by minimising the risk to an acceptable level by, for instance, isolating with signage or fencing the area.

3. **Are there risks to the environment (e.g. threatened, endangered or non-target species that are vulnerable or susceptible to 1080)?**

Assess the risk and whether the program can proceed by determining the measures acceptable to minimise the risk of baiting on the environment.

4. **Are there risks to domestic livestock?**

Assess the risk and whether the program can proceed by considering methods of husbandry necessary to minimise the risk; such as removing grazing livestock from a paddock during a rabbit baiting program.

5. **Are there risks to domestic pets?**

Assess the risk and whether the program can proceed by minimising the risk to an acceptable level. For instance, will domestic pets need to be restrained or caged during the baiting program?

6. **Are there risks to working or guard dogs?**

Assess the risk and whether the program can proceed by minimising the risk to an acceptable level. For instance, will working or guard dogs need to be muzzled during the baiting program?

7. **Are there other risks not mentioned or risks that may have adverse outcomes such as negative media coverage of the program?**

If so, manage risks appropriately.

The following matrix can be used for the risk assessment process.

Risk analysis

- **Extreme risk** ■ – extreme risk where it doesn't fit the PCO, don't do
- **High risk** ■ – high risk, either don't do or immediate action required
- **Medium risk** ■ – moderate risk, attention needed, reassess and change
- **Low risk** □ – low risk, assess and manage by routine procedures

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE / IMPACT				
	CATASTROPHIC	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	INSIGNIFICANT
ALMOST CERTAIN	EXTREME	EXTREME	EXTREME	HIGH	HIGH
LIKELY	EXTREME	EXTREME	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
POSSIBLE	EXTREME	EXTREME	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
UNLIKELY	EXTREME	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW
RARE	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW

Qualitative measures of *likelihood*

- **Almost certain** – detrimental risk to humans, animals or the environment is highly likely to occur
- **Likely** – detrimental risk to humans, animals or the environment is likely to occur
- **Possible** – a detrimental risk to humans, animals or the environment may occur
- **Unlikely** – a detrimental risk to humans, animals or the environment is unlikely to occur
- **Rare** – a detrimental risk to humans, animals or the environment is highly unlikely to occur

Qualitative measures of *consequence / impact*

- **Catastrophic** – death or damage with detrimental effect, huge loss
- **Major** – death or damage with detrimental effect, loss expected
- **Moderate** – medical, veterinary or damage repair treatment required, financial loss
- **Minor** – very little perceived detrimental effect
- **Insignificant** – no perceived or negligible environmental impact; no threat to humans or animals

This table can be used to record each risk and the management controls the end user or ACO used to minimise such risk.

Risk scenario:		
Likelihood:	Consequence/impact:	Risk analysis:
Management controls & comments*:		

* If a risk is identified, the 1080 or Pindone user / Authorised Control Officer must record how the risk will be managed (including reasons why a program did not go ahead) and by whom.

Example:

Risk scenario: Poisoning domestic pets when laying fox baits at 200 m distance from habitation.		
Likelihood: Unlikely	Consequence/impact: Major	Risk analysis: High
Management controls & comments*: No pets at residence. Risk to visitor pets. Additional signs at house gate. Ensure all baits are buried and bait sites marked. Tether bait to a post. Check daily. (Landowner)		