

City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control (PA-AP) (0216-71)

Version 1.0 (January 2026)

Qualification Handbook

Candidates are **not** permitted to refer to this document during the practical observation and oral questioning.

Qualification at a glance

Subject area	Pesticides and Pest Control
City & Guilds number	0216-71
Age group approved	16+
Entry requirements	N/A
Assessment	This is an independently assessed qualification. To gain this qualification, candidates must successfully achieve the following: one to one practical observation with oral questioning
Grading	Pass/Fail
Approvals	Full approval required
Support materials	Qualification handbook Practical assessment guidance (available via the Assessor secure area of www.nptc.org.uk)
Registration and certification	Consult Walled Garden for last dates

Title and level	City & Guilds qualification number	Regulatory reference number	GLH	TQT
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control (PA-AP)	0216-71	610/6546/8	56	60

Version and date	Change detail	Section
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Contents

Qualification at a glance	2
1 Introduction	5
Structure	7
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	7
2 Centre requirements	8
Approval	8
Resource requirements	8
Quality assurance	9
Learner entry requirements	10
Age restrictions	10
Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration	10
3 Delivering the qualification	12
Initial assessment and induction	12
Inclusion and diversity	12
Sustainability	12
Support materials	13
4 Assessment	14
Assessment of the qualification	14
Assessment strategy	14
Time constraints	14
Summary of responsibilities in preparing for the assessment process	15
5 Units	16
Structure of the units	16
Guidance for delivery of the units	16
Unit 214 The principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control	17
Unit 215 The practices of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control	23
Supporting information	28
Appendix 1 Sources of general information	30

1 Introduction

This document tells you what you need to do to deliver the qualification.

Area	Description
Who is the qualification for?	The term “pesticides” is defined as any substance, preparation or organism that is prepared for or used to control any pest. The term “pesticide” is used to cover pesticides and Plant Protection Products (PPPs). This qualification is for those individuals whose job involves applying professional pesticide products. It is a requirement to hold an approved qualification. This qualification is designed specifically for those who wish to purchase and use aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control.
What does the qualification cover?	This qualification covers: • understanding the legislative, regulatory and Codes of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide • knowing how to minimise the risk of human contamination and implement emergency procedures • knowing how to store and transport aluminium phosphide safely • knowing how to identify non-target species and sites and target species and their impact on the environment • understanding the methods of preventative management and control for target species • reading and interpreting information on a product label • assessing the environmental risks relating to the application site • carrying out safe and accurate application procedures • knowing how to carry out post-operational procedures
What opportunities for progression are there?	This qualification will support progression into/sustainment in employment where purchasing and using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest

control is part of the role. This qualification will also support progression into further learning in pesticides and pest control.

City & Guilds offer a range of refreshers in pesticides and pest control. Under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) it is recommended that individuals have a refresher every 2–5 years.

Each refresher covers the appropriate practical skills required to meet legislation, industry technical standards and industry good practice.

The refresher encourages looking forward and identifying opportunities to learn something new, refresh existing knowledge, improve skills, and keep up to date with the latest developments in a profession or industry.

Who did we develop the qualification with?

Developed with City & Guilds NPTC stakeholders, associates and industry representatives.

Compliance with the Health and Safety Executive, Chemical Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Standards (RAMPS) and the relevant Environmental Agency.

Is it part of an apprenticeship framework or initiative?

No

Structure

To achieve the City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control (PA-AP) (0216-71), learners must achieve:

City & Guilds unit number	Unit title	GLH
Mandatory unit: Learners must achieve the following mandatory units.		
Unit 214	The principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control	28
Unit 215	The practices of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control	28

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

TQT is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected for a learner to demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

TQT consists of the following two elements:

- the number of hours that an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for guided learning
- an estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but, unlike guided learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Title and level	GLH	TQT
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control (PA-AP) (0216-71)	56	60

2 Centre requirements

Approval

Full approval

To offer this qualification, centres will need to gain both centre and qualification approval. Please refer to the document **Centre Approval Process: Quality Assurance Standards** for further information.

Centre staff should familiarise themselves with the structure, content and assessment requirements of the qualification before designing a course programme.

Resource requirements

Centres

The learner must be registered through the City & Guilds approved Assessment Centre for this qualification **prior** to the assessment.

Centre Staffing

Staff delivering these qualifications must be able to demonstrate that they meet the following occupational expertise requirements. They must have:

Technical competence

- be occupationally competent or possess technical expertise equivalent to the level of training being delivered.
- experience should reflect current industry standards and practice.

Professional experience

- must have current and relevant experience in the specific subject area being delivered and assessed.

Training delivery

- proven track record of delivering training.

Assessors

Assessors must be approved Certificate of Competence (CoC) City & Guilds NPTC Assessors and **must be independent and cannot have been involved with the training of the candidate.**

Assessors must use the practical assessment guidance which is available via the assessor secure area of **www.nptc.org.uk**.

Assessors must:

- show competence and provide evidence of industry expertise in the qualification(s) they wish to assess
- hold the qualification as a candidate and have been technically evaluated as an assessor
- be up to date with their verification and relevant first aid training.

Demonstrating continuing technically relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) with these requirements is a pre-requisite for assessors to remain on the list of approved assessors.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff in ensuring that their knowledge of the occupational area remains current and of best practice in delivery, mentoring, training, assessment and quality assurance, and that it takes account of any national or legislative developments.

Physical resources

Centres must be able to demonstrate that they have access to the physical resources required to deliver this qualification and its assessments:

Site requirements:

- a dry location for questioning and documentation completion
- a specified area with evidence of pest infestation for completing a site survey and identification of pest activity
- a specified area for application of simulated aluminium phosphide

Equipment:

Any equipment used for the delivery or assessment must comply with current legal requirements.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)
- applicator
- compass and anemometer
- spillage kit

Documentation:

- product label and/or appropriate EAMU provided by the candidate
- application record provided by the candidate

Consumables:

- first aid kit
- **simulated** pesticide product, it is **not** permissible to use the actual product

Additional information:

Additional information may be sought from the relevant product information or database or any other publication by the government or a government agency.

Quality assurance

Approved centres must have effective quality assurance systems to ensure optimal delivery and assessment of qualifications. Quality assurance includes initial centre approval, qualification approval and the centre's own internal procedures for monitoring quality. Centres are responsible for internal quality assurance and City & Guilds is responsible for external quality assurance. All external quality assurance processes reflect the minimum requirements for verified and moderated assessments, as detailed in the Centre Assessment Standards Scrutiny (CASS), section H2 of Ofqual's General Conditions. For more information on both CASS and City & Guilds quality assurance processes visit the **What is CASS?** and **Quality Assurance Standards** documents on the City & Guilds website.

Standards and rigorous quality assurance are maintained by the use of:

- internal quality assurance
- City & Guilds external quality assurance.

In order to carry out the quality assurance role, Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) must:

- have appropriate teaching and vocational knowledge and expertise
- have experience in quality management/internal quality assurance
- hold or be working towards an appropriate teaching/training/assessing qualification
- be familiar with the occupation and technical content covered within the qualification.

External quality assurance for the qualification will be provided by City & Guilds. External Quality Assurers (EQAs) are appointed by City & Guilds to approve centres, and to monitor the assessment and internal quality assurance carried out by centres. External quality assurance is carried out to ensure that assessment is valid and reliable, and that there is good assessment practice in centres.

The role of the EQA is to:

- provide advice and support to centre staff
- ensure the quality and consistency of assessments and marking/grading within and between centres by the use of systematic sampling
- provide feedback to centres and to City & Guilds.

Learner entry requirements

Centres must ensure that learners have the potential and opportunity to gain the qualification successfully.

Age restrictions

This qualification is approved for learners aged 16 or above.

Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration

City & Guilds has considered the design of this qualification and its assessments in order to best support accessibility and inclusion for all learners. City & Guilds understands however that individuals have diverse learning needs and may require reasonable adjustments to fully participate. Reasonable adjustments, such as additional time or alternative formats, may be provided to accommodate learners with disabilities and support fair access to assessment.

Access arrangements are adjustments that allow candidates with disabilities, special educational needs, and temporary injuries to access the assessment and demonstrate their skills and knowledge without changing the demands of the assessment. These arrangements must be made before assessment takes place.

The Equality Act 2010 requires City & Guilds to make reasonable adjustments where a disabled person would be at a substantial disadvantage in undertaking an assessment.

It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure at the start of a programme of learning that candidates will be able to access the requirements of the qualification.

Special consideration is a post examination adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary injury, illness or other indisposition at the time of the examination/assessment.

Please refer to the documents 'Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments', 'JCQ – A Guide to the special consideration process' and 'Access arrangements – When and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds' for more information. All of these are available on the **City & Guilds website**

3 Delivering the qualification

Initial assessment and induction

An initial assessment of each learner should be made before the start of their programme to identify:

- if the learner has any specific training needs
- any support and guidance they may need when working towards their qualification
- any units they have already completed or credit they have accumulated which is relevant to the qualification
- the appropriate type and level of qualification.

We recommend that centres provide an induction programme, so the learner fully understands the requirements of the qualification, their responsibilities as a learner and the responsibilities of the centre. This information can be recorded on a learning contract.

Inclusion and diversity

City & Guilds is committed to improving inclusion and diversity within the way we work and how we deliver our purpose which is to help people and organisations develop the skills they need for growth. More information and guidance to support centres in supporting inclusion and diversity through the delivery of City & Guilds qualifications can be found here: **[Inclusion and diversity | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)**

Sustainability

City & Guilds are committed to net zero. Our ambition is to reduce our carbon emissions by at least 50% before 2030 and develop environmentally responsible operations to achieve net zero by 2040 or sooner if we can. City & Guilds is committed to supporting qualifications that help our customers to consider sustainability and their environmental footprint.

More information and guidance to support centres in developing sustainable practices through the delivery of City & Guilds qualifications can be found here: **[Our Pathway to Net Zero | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)**

Centres should consider their own carbon footprint when delivering this qualification and consider reasonable and practical ways of delivering this qualification with sustainability in mind. This could include:

- reviewing purchasing and procurement processes (such as buying in bulk to reduce the amount of travel time and energy and considering and investing in the use of resources that can be reused, instead of the use of disposable or single use consumables)
- waste procedures (ensuring that waste is minimised and recycling is in place wherever possible)
- minimising water use and considering options for reuse/salvage wherever possible.

Support materials

The following resources are available for this qualification:

Description	How to access
Qualification handbook	www.nptc.org.uk
Practical assessment guidance	Available only via the assessor secure area www.nptc.org.uk

4 Assessment

Assessment of the qualification

Candidates must successfully complete:

- one practical observation with oral questioning for **each** registered unit

Unit	Title	Assessment method	Where to obtain assessment materials
Unit 214	The principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control	Practical observation with oral questioning Externally set, assessed by a City & Guilds NPTC approved assessor, externally verified	Assessors must use the materials provided by City & Guilds. Practical assessment guidance can be downloaded from the assessor secure area of www.nptc.org.uk
Unit 215	The practices of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control	Practical observation with oral questioning Externally set, assessed by a City & Guilds NPTC approved assessor, externally verified	Assessors must use the materials provided by City & Guilds. Practical assessment guidance can be downloaded from the assessor secure area of www.nptc.org.uk

Assessment strategy

City & Guilds has written the following assessments to use with this qualification:

- live practical assessment guidance (practical observation with oral questioning) that can be downloaded from the assessor secure area of the NPTC website.

During the assessment the candidate may refer to operator manuals, training materials or safety publications, but they may not refer to the Qualification Handbook (QHB).

Time constraints

The following **must** be applied to the assessment of this qualification:

- Candidates must complete their assessment within 12 months of initial registration.
- Practical observation and oral questioning should take between 1.5–3 hours.

Summary of responsibilities in preparing for the assessment process

Centre responsibilities	Candidate responsibilities	Assessor responsibilities
A suitable site is made available for the assessment to take place		Ensuring that the site provided is suitable for the assessment to take place
Equipment and materials are available to enable assessment of all the activities to take place	To be familiar with the equipment being used for the assessment	Ensuring that the equipment and materials provided satisfy the assessment requirements
	To bring appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) to the assessment	Wearing appropriate PPE and RPE. Ensuring that candidate's PPE and RPE complies with the requirements of the assessment
	To bring relevant training materials (if applicable)	
	To bring a product label and application record appropriate for the assessment	To ensure that the product label and application record is appropriate for the assessment (or provide a suitable alternative)

5 Units

Structure of the units

These units each have the following:

- City & Guilds reference number
- title
- level
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH)
- credit value
- unit aim
- assessment method
- Learning Outcomes (LOs), which are comprised of a number of Assessment Criteria (ACs)
- supporting information

Guidance for delivery of the units

This qualification comprises of a number of **units**. A unit describes what is expected of a competent person in particular aspects of their job.

Each unit is divided into **Learning Outcomes (LOs)** which describe in further detail the skills and knowledge that an individual should possess.

Each Learning Outcome (LO) has a set of **Assessment Criteria (ACs)** (performance and knowledge and understanding) which specify the desired criteria that must be satisfied before an individual can be said to have performed to the agreed standard.

Supporting information provides guidance of the evidence requirement for the units, specific guidance on safe practice, and suggested learning resources. Centres are advised to review this information carefully before delivering the unit.

Unit 214 The principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control

Level:	2
GLH:	28
Assessment method:	Practical observation with oral questioning
Aim:	The purpose of this unit is for learners to understand the principles of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control.

Learning Outcomes

LO1 Understand the legislative, regulatory and Codes of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide

LO2 Know how to minimise the risk of human contamination and implement emergency procedures

LO3 Know how to store and transport aluminium phosphide safely

LO4 Know the characteristics of vertebrate pests and their impact on the environment

LO5 Understand the methods of preventative management and control for vertebrate pests

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC1.1 Describe the legislative requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide	Assessment Criteria 1.1 Legislative requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide: a) Operator's responsibilities under the Health And Safety At Work Act (HASAWA): i) Maintain the health and safety of self and those within the surrounding area. ii) Follow instructions and training provided by the employer. iii) Cooperate with the employer on health and safety procedures in the workplace. b) Requirements under the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA): i) Establish safe, effective and humane methods of controlling pests. ii) Follow product label requirements for correct application of aluminium phosphide. iii) Safeguard the environment and protect the health of humans, flora and fauna. c) Requirements under the Poisons Act: i) Seller must identify purchaser, purchaser must provide identification if not known to the seller. ii) Signed order accepted if purchaser cannot collect, detailing: • name and address of purchaser • trade, business or profession • total quantity

- purpose of use.
- iii) Complete the poisons book.
- d) Environmental and wildlife considerations in line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act:
 - i) Knowledge of species which can be legally treated with aluminium phosphide.
 - ii) Carry out an environmental assessment.
 - iii) Check work area for:
 - protected and non-target species and habitats
 - target species signs of activity, pest level and risks.
 - iv) Ensure aluminium phosphide application is covered within burrow or run and regularly checked.
 - v) Use signage to protect the general public.

AC1.2 Describe the regulatory requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide

Assessment Criteria 1.2

Regulatory requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide:

- a) Operator's responsibilities under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations:
 - i) Read, understand and comply with risk assessments for all hazardous substances.
 - ii) Adhere to control measures put in place to reduce risks.
 - iii) Check control measures are working and report any defects promptly.
- b) Requirements under the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations:
 - i) Follow obligations on the purchasing and use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs).
 - ii) Follow obligations on the disposal of PPPs, including packaging.
- c) Requirements from the Biocidal Product Regulations:
 - i) Take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of people.
 - ii) Take all reasonable precautions to protect creatures and the environment.
- d) Requirements from The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations:
 - i) Have had adequate instructions, training and guidance.
 - ii) Application equipment must be inspected at regular intervals to ensure it's in good working order.
 - iii) Check that products being used are currently approved.
 - iv) Operators must follow the statutory conditions of use detailed on the product label.

AC1.3 Describe the Codes of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide

Assessment Criteria 1.2

Code of Practice (CoP) requirements relating to the use of aluminium phosphide:

- a) The operator applying aluminium phosphide has received adequate training and certification.
- b) Follow product label requirements for the storage and transportation of aluminium phosphide.
- c) Refer to the Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Standards (RAMPS) Code of Practice (CoP)
- d) Follow reporting procedures for non-target species poisoning:
 - i) Incidents involving fish to the relevant environmental agency.
 - ii) Incidents involving wildlife to the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS).

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC2.1 Describe possible routes and symptoms of contamination in people	Assessment Criteria 2.1 Possible routes of contamination and symptoms of contamination in people: a) Possible routes of contamination: i) Absorption: substances that enter the bloodstream through the surfaces of the body such as the skin and eyes. ii) Inhalation: airborne substances that enter the body through the air that is breathed in. iii) Ingestion: substances that are consumed enter the digestive tract and are absorbed into the bloodstream. iv) Injection: direct and immediate contamination of substances through skin penetration. b) Symptoms of contamination in people: i) Nausea. ii) Headache. iii) Blurred vision/watering eyes. iv) Dizziness. v) Dehydration. vi) Stomach or chest pains/tightness. vii) Breathing difficulties. viii) Loss of consciousness or death. ix) Allergic/anaphylactic reaction.
AC2.2 State methods of avoiding and reducing contamination to people	Assessment Criteria 2.2 Methods of avoiding and reducing contamination to people: a) Methods of avoiding and reducing contamination: i) Use, handle and dispose of aluminium phosphide as directed by the product label. ii) Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) as identified on the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) risk assessment. iii) Only apply aluminium phosphide outdoors. iv) Know that gas is present for 24-48 hours from the point (or time) it is activated. v) Do not use in rain, heavy mist or on waterlogged ground. vi) Erect safety notices and mark out exclusion areas. vii) Establish risk area: • 25m from treatment area. • monitor phosphine at the edge of the risk area. • can be reduced to 10m if phosphine is not detected. b) Items of PPE and RPE used to avoid or reduce contamination: i) Gloves. ii) Coveralls. iii) Respirator (full face or hood types only). iv) RPE filters B2 plus P3 for particulates.
AC2.3 State procedures for dealing with contamination and accidental spillage	Assessment Criteria 2.3 Procedures for dealing with contamination and accidental spillage: a) Procedures for dealing with a contaminated person: i) Protect self ii) Identify contamination iii) Contact the emergency services iv) Remove person and relocate to safe area v) Decontaminate vi) Advise to seek medical advice vii) Contact the National Poisons Information Services (NPIS).

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	viii) Information to be made available to NPIS and emergency/medical services: • product label. • Safety Data Sheet (SDS). b) Procedures for administering first aid to an unconscious person: i) Treat as an emergency: • check for a response • ensure airway is clear and open • check breathing and circulation. ii) Stay with the casualty until the medical services arrive. c) Procedure for dealing with an accidental spillage resulting in the liberation of phosphine gas: i) Know the location of spillage and/or grid reference or What3Words ii) Evacuate the area iii) Wear appropriate Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) iv) Use an appropriate method to clear up the spillage according to manufacturer's label v) Bury at location (includes holes and burrows) vi) Contact: • the emergency services • the appropriate environmental agency.

AC3.1 State the requirements for safe storage and transportation of aluminium phosphide

Assessment Criteria 3.1

Requirements for safe storage and transportation of aluminium phosphide:

- a) Requirements for safe storage of aluminium phosphide:
 - i) Constructed frost-free and ventilated.
 - ii) Location to be logged with the local fire and rescue services.
 - iii) Kept locked with accessibility by approved users only.
 - iv) Display suitable warning signs.
 - v) Display emergency and ownership contact details.
 - vi) Stock recording system in place.
 - vii) Correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) to be available.
 - viii) Suitable fire extinguisher present.
 - ix) Products stored off the floor, above a bund, in a separate moisture proof and fireproof chest, bin or vault fixed to the wall of the fixed store.
 - x) All products stored in original container which is tightly closed.
 - xi) Storage container marked "gassing compound: do not use water".
 - xii) Spill kit available to deal with minor spillages.
- b) Requirements for safe transportation of aluminium phosphide:
 - i) Aluminium phosphide should not be routinely transported (only required when carrying out a planned treatment).
 - ii) Correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE).
 - iii) Careful handling to reduce risk of spillage and damage.
 - iv) Containers checked prior to transport to ensure undamaged.
 - v) Record of products being carried documented.
 - vi) Products to be stored in vapour proof container.
 - vii) Products to be segregated from driver and/or passengers during transport.
 - viii) Never carry part-used flasks.

AC4.1 Explain how to identify non-target species and sites

Assessment Criteria 4.1

How to identify non-target species and sites:

- a) Foxes:
 - i) Presence of a fox earth.
 - ii) Fox signs, paw prints, hairs, droppings, scent.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	iii) Fox specific habits. b) Badgers: i) Presence of a badger sett. ii) Badger signs, tracks, hair, dropping, scents. iii) Badger specific habits. c) Other species that could be identified: i) Other mammals (pine marten, water vole). ii) Birds living in burrows (puffins, shearwater). iii) Reptiles and amphibians. iv) Domestic animals and farm animals. d) Identifying sites using online resources: i) Identification of protected sites eg Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). ii) Special Conservation Areas (SCA).

AC4.2 Describe the characteristics of vertebrate pests

Assessment Criteria 4.2

The characteristics of vertebrate pests:

- a) Activity patterns of rats:
 - i) Prefer a stable environment.
 - ii) Adapt their activity patterns to the environment and/or group numbers.
 - iii) Active in familiar areas.
 - iv) Can climb rough walls and pipes.
- b) Activity patterns of moles:
 - i) Mainly solitary creatures and are territorial.
 - ii) Day is split between 4 hours waking and 4 hours resting.
 - iii) Runs are between 100 and 225mm deep.
 - iv) Dig up to 200m of tunnels.
 - v) Shallow runs in wet weather, deeper runs in dry weather.
- c) Activity patterns of rabbits:
 - i) Mainly active during dawn and dusk.
 - ii) Usually live in groups in warrens.
 - iii) Often live on the surface during the summer.
 - iv) Spend more time in burrows during winter months.

AC4.3 Describe where damage may be caused by the target species and the possible implications of the damage

Assessment Criteria 4.3

Where damage may be caused by the target species and the possible implications of the damage:

- a) Where damage may be caused by the target species:
 - i) Crops and stores.
 - ii) Public areas.
 - iii) Industrial land.
 - iv) Trees and shrubs.
 - v) Banking, railways, rivers, and flood banks.
 - vi) Buildings and structures.
 - vii) Electrical installations and machinery.
- b) Possible implications of the damage caused by the target species:
 - i) Reduction in crop values.
 - ii) Costs related to damage and control.
 - iii) Transmission of disease.
 - iv) Public perception.
 - v) Environmental impact.
 - vi) Non-compliance of agricultural crop assurance schemes.
 - vii) Any damage leading to safety implications.
 - viii) Not permitted to be used within 10m distance from:
 - buildings capable of being occupied by humans or animals.
 - surface watercourses or ditches.
 - any non-target burrows or habitats.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC5.1 State the types of preventative management, natural control measures and alternative methods of population control for the target species	Assessment Criteria 5.1 The types of preventative management, natural control measures and alternative methods of population control for the target species: a) Types of preventative management for the target species: i) Exclusion barriers. ii) Closed containment or removal of potential food sources. iii) Habitat and/or environment changes. iv) Use of repellents and/or sonic devices. b) Natural control measures for the target species: i) Approximate life expectancy. ii) Natural predators. iii) Diseases. iv) Species competition. v) Food availability. vi) Weather conditions. vii) Impact of seasons. c) Alternative methods of population control for the target species: i) Removal of habitats. ii) Trapping. iii) Ferreting. iv) Canine control. v) Rodenticides (rats and mice only). vi) Shooting.

Unit 215 The practices of using aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control

Level:	2
GLH:	28
Assessment method:	Practical observation with oral questioning
Aim:	The purpose of this unit is for learners to use aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control.

Learning Outcomes

- LO1 Read and interpret information on a product label
- LO2 Assess the environmental risks relating to the application site
- LO3 Carry out safe and accurate application procedures
- LO4 Know how to carry out post-operational procedures

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC1.1 Read and interpret information on a product label	Assessment Criteria 1.1 Information on a product label: a) Product information: i) Product name ii) Active substance(s) (ingredients) iii) Approval number iv) Reason for use v) Expiry date/shelf life. b) Important information: i) Approved field of use ii) Situation iii) Maximum individual dose iv) Maximum number of treatments. c) Safety precautions: i) Operator protection ii) Environmental protection iii) Restrictions on use iv) Specific product precautions. d) Target specific information: i) Target species ii) Application rate iii) Timing of application(s).
AC2.1 Identify environmental risks to the application site and explain how to minimise these risks	Assessment Criteria 2.1 Environmental risks to the application site and how to minimise these risks: a) Environmental factors at risk at the application site: i) Ground conditions.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	ii) Water courses. iii) Drains. iv) Boreholes. v) Environmental margins/strips/areas. vi) Wildlife. vii) Beneficial insects. viii) Non-target animal species. ix) Sensitive crops/areas. x) Housing. xi) Public access. xii) Uncontrolled gas liberation. xiii) Other environmental factors relevant to the site. b) Minimise risks to the application site: i) Check and maintain application rate. ii) Monitor weather conditions. iii) Inform neighbours. iv) Ensure aluminium phosphide is marked and secured. v) Bury all spillages. vi) Erect warning signs. vii) Gas monitoring. viii) Use correct application equipment. ix) Appropriate timing of application.

AC2.2 Carry out a site survey to identify signs of target and non-target species

Assessment Criteria 2.2

Carry out a site survey to identify signs of target and non-target species:

- a) Natural habitats of target species:
 - i) Rats:
 - outside burrows.
 - outside stores.
 - refuse sites.
 - ii) Moles:
 - woodlands and hedgerows.
 - grassland.
 - light cultivated land.
 - iii) Rabbits
 - burrows and warrens into earth banks and under buildings.
 - close proximity to a food source.
 - warm and dry location with access to water.
- b) Signs of infestation:
 - i) Rats:
 - droppings.
 - smears.
 - holes.
 - damage to structures and food.
 - urination pillars.
 - smell.
 - runs.
 - evidence of gnawing.
 - ii) Moles:
 - mole hills.
 - surface runs.
 - monitoring species activity.
 - iii) Rabbits:
 - droppings.
 - scrapes.
 - holes.
 - damage to crops and food.
 - runs.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	c) Signs of non-target species present on site: i) People. ii) Farm animals. iii) Domestic animals. iv) Birds. v) Other mammals. vi) Aquatic species.
AC3.2 Prepare the site for the application of aluminium phosphide	Assessment Criteria 3.2 Prepare the site for the application of aluminium phosphide: a) Exclude non-target species from the site b) Clear vegetation c) Locate all: i) Rat holes. ii) Rabbit holes. iii) Mole underground runs. d) Ensure that target species are below ground.
AC3.3 Carry out pre-use checks to the applicator and fill safely	Assessment Criteria 3.3 Pre-use checks to the applicator and fill the applicator safely: a) Pre-use checks to the applicator: i) Ensure correct applicator used for product ii) Use a systematic method to identify serviceability of the applicator iii) Assemble the equipment as per manufacturer's instructions. b) Fill the applicator safely: i) Check wind direction prior to putting on correct Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) ii) Face fit testing to ensure a tight fit iii) Open container outdoors adjacent to work area iv) Work sideways to the wind v) Attach the container to the applicator as per instructions.
AC3.4 Carry out safe and accurate application of the aluminium phosphide	Assessment Criteria 3.4 Safe and accurate application of the aluminium phosphide: a) Safe and accurate application of aluminium phosphide: i) Use correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) ii) Treatment area clearly identified iii) Begin work in the part of the fumigation area which is furthest downwind iv) Keep a check on the wind direction during fumigation operations v) Comply with product label requirements vi) Ensure effective liaison with the stopper operator vii) Never place or leave gassing compounds on the ground surface viii) Accurate placement of the product in the hole/run ix) Check amount dispensed x) Seal each entry point to be as gas tight as possible xi) Ensure all entry points are covered to prevent gas escape. b) Completion of an application record must be: i) Accurate ii) Legible.

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
AC4.1 Explain how to manage and dispose of surplus aluminium phosphide	Assessment Criteria 4.1 Managing and disposing of surplus aluminium phosphide: - Methods of reducing aluminium phosphide waste: - Complete a site survey. - Ensure there is an active population of the target species. - Accurate amount dispensed. - Disposing of waste aluminium phosphide: buried in accordance with the instructions on the label and safety provisions put in place for 48 hours. - Disposing of waste materials: - Tap any residue out of the container and applicator at treatment burrow and vent the container thoroughly on site. - Dispose of container according to the label: - container disposal via a licenced waste disposal contractor. - consignment note retained by operator/company.
AC4.2 Explain how to clean, decontaminate and store the applicator	Assessment Criteria 4.2 Cleaning, decontaminating and storing the applicator: - Cleaning and decontaminating the applicator: - Reducing the risk of personal contamination: - select and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE). - transport applicator in a well-ventilated separate part of the vehicle or in a gas tight container. - Reducing the risk of environmental contamination: - appropriate site. - ensure the applicator has no product trapped inside by tapping any dust residues or powder into the last burrow and cover. - venting to be carried out in the open, protected from rain and away from habitation or occupied buildings until no more gas is present. - safe disposal of contaminated washings. - Effective cleaning and decontamination: - ensure the applicator is made safe. - care to ensure contamination 'hot spots' are clean. - thorough washing of internal and external surfaces in accordance with product label requirements. - ensure applicator is completely dry prior to next use. - Storage requirements for the applicator: - Refer to manufacturer's handbook. - Clean and dry. - Inspect for wear and damage. - Replace any worn or damaged parts. - Undercover and out of direct sunlight.
AC4.3 Describe the gas monitoring requirements for the site following treatment with aluminium phosphide	Assessment Criteria 4.3 Gas monitoring requirements for the site following treatment with aluminium phosphide: - Gas monitoring after 48 hours to determine gas levels - Check wind direction, wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and take two readings: - At head height and at 10 cm above the ground

Assessment Criteria	Scope of study
	ii) Starting from the edge of the pre-determined risk area down wind of the fumigation area until gas is detected c) Repeat the process until four sets of readings opposite and at right angles to the initial have been taken d) Once all readings show phosphine levels below 0.01 ppm the area is deemed safe e) Inform the owner occupier and keep a record of all readings.

Supporting information

Evidence requirements

Practical observation and oral questioning by a City & Guilds NPTC approved assessor.

A prepopulated Record Of Assessment (ROA) must be completed by the assessor following an assessment. **All** Assessment Criteria (AC) must be completed as either 'met' or 'not met' for each outcome on the ROA.

The assessment(s) can be achieved at **pass** only. **All** Assessment Criteria (AC) must be met to achieve a pass result, if any AC is not met the candidate is unsuccessful and will fail the assessment.

Candidates who undertake this assessment and have met the requirements are reminded of their legal obligation to receive/undertake appropriate additional training in the use of any equipment that differs from that used during the assessment, but which they are nevertheless qualified to use.

Unit guidance

The delivery of this qualification should be carried out in a real-life working environment with a suitable site and target(s).

Learners should be familiar with all equipment that they are going to use.

Provision must be made to comply with environmental and sustainability regulations and standards; segregation of resources for reuse, recycling and disposal should be implemented.

New technologies should be included within delivery of this qualification to allow learners to practise without wasting products. Artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR) could also be used to deliver knowledge and practical sessions.

It is recommended that the delivery integrates visits/engagement with local industry and employers to ensure that the implementation of legislation, policies, codes of practice and industry best practice are up to date.

Safe practice

The assessor and candidate must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and, if required, Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) during the practical activities.

Assessors must ensure a site-specific risk assessment is carried out and sufficient control measures are implemented.

A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available.

All equipment used in the delivery and assessment of the qualification must comply with manufacturer's guidelines and the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998. Equipment must be used in such a way that the learner, assessor, other persons and/or equipment are not endangered.

A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being terminated and the candidate not meeting the required standard. The assessor may stop the assessment on the grounds of safety at any time at their discretion.

Suggested learning resources

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) information sheet AIS16 & AIS22 Available via:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais16.htm>

Pesticides Code of Practice. Available via: **<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products.htm>**

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025: Working for a more sustainable future. Available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-pesticides-national-action-plan-2025/uk-pesticides-national-action-plan-2025-working-for-a-more-sustainable-future>

Voluntary Initiative. Available via: **<https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/>**

Additional information may be sought from the relevant product information or database or any other publication by the government or a government agency.

Appendix 1 Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to www.cityandguilds.com or click on the links below:

Centre handbook: quality assurance standards

This document is for all approved centres and provides guidance to support their delivery of our qualifications. It includes information on:

- centre quality assurance criteria and monitoring activities
- administration and assessment systems
- centre-facing support teams at City & Guilds/ILM
- centre quality assurance roles and responsibilities.

The centre handbook should be used to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the centre contract.

Centre assessment: quality assurance standards

This document sets out the minimum common quality assurance requirements for our qualifications that feature centre-assessed components.

It incorporates our expectations for centre internal quality assurance and the external quality assurance methods we use to ensure that assessment standards are met and upheld. It also details the range of sanctions that may be put in place when centres do not comply with our requirements or actions that will be taken to align centre marking/assessment to required standards. Additionally, it provides guidance on administering portfolios and controlled assessments, including a definition of supervised conditions.

Access arrangements: when and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds

This provides full details of the arrangements that may be made to facilitate access to assessments and qualifications for candidates who are eligible for adjustments in assessment.

The **centre document library** also contains useful information on such things as:

- conducting examinations
- registering learners
- appeals and malpractice.

Useful contacts

Please visit the **contact us** section of the City & Guilds website.

City & Guilds

City & Guilds is the global skills partner, empowering people, organisations and economies to develop the skills they need for growth. With almost 150 years of trusted expertise, we support people into work, help them develop on the job and move into the next job.

We work with Governments, employers, training providers, colleges and industry stakeholders to design and deliver high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to meaningful career progression. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility and success. Our solutions span critical sectors including construction, engineering, transport, energy and electrical, serving over 1 million learners annually.

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