

Cyanide use for possum skin or fur recovery



Anyone wanting to lay cyanide paste on land managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) must first obtain permission from the local DOC office.

How do I apply for permission?

Start by contacting your local DOC office to discuss your proposed operation. The person assisting you will provide you with the correct forms and information on how to proceed. This will include:

- An application form for you to complete
- An example of a completed application form
- A map to mark the boundary of your operation and warning sign locations
- Information about any consultation that is required prior to your application.

What if I only want to use traps?

You still need DOC permission if you are only using traps. The person assisting you will provide you with a possum trapping permit and work through the sections of the permit with you. They will also assist you to mark on a map where the traps will be used. It is likely that the permit will be approved at the time of completion.

Do I need permission from anyone else?

Yes, to use cyanide on land managed by DOC you must also obtain permission from the local Public Health Unit. Your application for DOC permission can be accepted for processing with proof of application for public health permission, but the final approval will not be granted until public health permission is sighted.

If there are any occupiers of the land managed by DOC, you must also visit or phone them to discuss how the operation may affect them and obtain their permission. You will be advised of this at the time of your initial enquiry.

Who else do I need to talk to about the operation?

When you first contact the local DOC office you will be told if you need to consult with anyone else about your proposed operation. This means explaining to them what you are proposing to do and finding out how this may affect them. You may need to change parts of your plan to satisfy concerns that they may have.

You must inform each person you are consulting with of the following points:

- Description of the proposed pesticide use
- Reasons for the operation

- Timeframes
- Key facts about the proposed pesticide use
- Contact details for further information
- Map of proposed treatment area
- When consulting with land owners or occupiers next to the treatment area you must also check that the boundaries of your operation are correct.

A record of this consultation must be included with your application forms.

Are there any other legal requirements for cyanide use?

There are numerous other legal requirements for using cyanide. It is your responsibility to know and meet these, including the requirement for a Controlled Substances Licence (CSL). A CSL is issued by WorkSafe NZ and your licence card must be sighted by the Operations Manager before your application for DOC permission will be approved.

Getting the sign-off from DOC

Gather all your documents as listed on the application form and submit your application to the local DOC office where it will be assessed. The approving manager may seek:

- Further information or advice about your application; and/or
- To modify your proposed operation to deal with any issues arising.

The timeframe for processing an application is 20 working days from when the complete set of documents is received and you will be sent a formal letter advising you of the outcome of your application.

Conditions of the permission

If your application is approved, the letter of permission will include the permission conditions for your operations. These are made up of:

- The final version of the DOC Performance Standards sheet(s)
- The map(s) that apply to your operation
- The Operations Manager may add additional performance standards to the approval for your operation
- Warning sign and notification requirements.

Separate permits are required for the following activities:

- Use of hut facilities
- Carrying a firearm or bringing a dog with you
- Erecting campsites
- Lighting of campfires

Only helicopter pilots that have a Department of Conservation concession can be used to service your operation.

Your operation may be audited to establish whether the conditions are being met. If not, the permission can be revoked and further action may ensue. If you wish to make any changes to the operation after you have obtained permission, you must first contact the Operations Manager to discuss this with them.

