SOP

Using VTAs

Laying bait and applying vertebrate toxic agents safely

Key point: the label is the legal instruction. Use the product only as the label says, and only if you hold what it needs. Most VTAs have no antidote, so plan before you open anything.

What do you need to use it?

CSL	**Cyanide, 1080, PAPP, DRC 1339** Carry your CSL. Without one, a CSL holder must be present and available, in sight and hearing.
CERTIFIED HANDLER	**Class 6.1A and 6.1B, and alphachloralose 97%** A certified handler in control, or present and guiding you.
MPI CERTIFICATE	**Liquid pindone, and broadcast pindone** An MPI Approved User Certificate. Notify MPI after applying, where the product requires it.
LABEL	**Other bait, such as brodifacoum or pindone in stations** Follow the label for bait stations, signs and stock. Check the SDS for your product.

Before you start

1. **Check permissions**
   Public Health permission for listed VTAs, DOC approval on DOC land, and landowner agreement.
2. **Tell people**
   Neighbouring occupiers and owners, plus anyone your permission or the label names.
3. **Check water**
   Find intakes and waterways. Stay outside the distances on your permission.
4. **Check the weather**
   Fine weather if the label requires it. Some 1080 labels need 48 hours fine after laying.
5. **Put up signs**
   At every normal access point, before bait is laid. See next page.
6. **Team talk**
   Discuss hazards, PPE, spills and first aid. Set up a buddy system so someone knows where you are.

Typical distances from water intakes

20 m
Ground laying, domestic supply. 50 m upstream on flowing water.

50 m
Ground laying, public supply. 100 m upstream on flowing water.

Examples from Ministry of Health permission guidelines. Your permission sets the actual distances, and can set others from homes, tracks and public areas.

Next page: laying bait, signs, carcasses, records, and what to do if something goes wrong

Laying bait

- [ ] Wear PPE as the label requires, with overalls outside boots
- [ ] SDS with you, and label fixed to the outside of your pack
- [ ] Number or GPS-map every bait so you can recover it
- [ ] Keep food and drink away from the VTA
- [ ] No one who is not helping lawfully stays nearby
- [ ] Keep washing gear and any antidote on hand

Signs: what and how long

- [ ] Who is applying it, with a business-hours contact
- [ ] It may be in carcasses, and the risk to dogs
- [ ] The substance, and that it is toxic to people and animals
- [ ] The date applied, and that removing signs or baits is an offence

1 mth	2 mths	4 mths	6 mths	8 mths	12 mths
DRC 1339	Sodium cyanide	Potassium cyanide	1080	Pindone	Brodifacoum

Minimum periods. Keep signs longer if monitoring shows a hazard remains or your permission says so. Other actives have their own periods.

Afterwards

Recover bait

Remove uneaten bait and stations as the label or permission requires.

Carcasses and stock

Collect carcasses where practical. Keep stock off and warn pet owners. Pindone: stock off for at least a month.

Clean up

Wash gear where run-off cannot reach water. Remove PPE and wash. Store surplus bait locked up.

Field application record

- [ ] Date, start and finish time
- [ ] Amount applied, location and area
- [ ] Applicator's name and work address
- [ ] Product name and HSR number
- [ ] Wind speed and direction, temperature
- [ ] Steps to protect boundaries and sensitive areas

Keep for 3 years. Update the Tracking Sheet too.

If something goes wrong

111	0800 764 766	0800 030 040	0800 76 88 45
Fire, injury or major spill	National Poisons Centre, 24 hours	WorkSafe, notifiable events	Environment Southland pollution

1. Stop, move people away and keep others out. Call for help before you get involved.
2. Poisoning suspected: get medical help straight away and follow the SDS first aid. Most VTAs have no antidote, and cyanide has none.
3. Stock or pets exposed: remove them, tell the owner and call a vet. Keep the label handy.

Summary only. Check the label, SDS, your licence, certificate and any permission conditions: Adroit Solutions VTA manual; Ministry of Health VTA permission guidelines 2022; WorkSafe VTA signage periods; MPI; National Poisons Centre.