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TERMITES & WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS

24-26 MARCH 2014 PRETORIA

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Initial inspection of a food warehouse

Before beginning your initial inspection in a food warehouse, ask an employee to walk you through the warehouse procedure, from receiving, through storage, shipping, returns, and finally waste disposal. Learn the "food flow" through the facility. Make notes; use a floor plan to mark hot spots and problem areas. Here are some areas where pests can build up quickly.

but for evidence of spillage, gnawing, or other damage. Older goods are usually the first to be infested so make sure the warehouse follows the rule of "first in, first out." Place pheromone traps in corners, where there could be spillage, on beams and ducts, around machinery, and along insect travel routes such as hallways, but not at doorways where they could draw pests in.



Receiving area.

Incoming food materials can arrive with a ready-made infestation. Receiving is a prime place to use monitoring traps to intercept new infestations. Goods should be inspected as soon as they arrive and infested or damaged materials should be rejected and returned. Nonreturnable goods should be disposed of immediately. Look for evidence of rodent activity around loading dock doors.

Returned goods area.

Rejected items awaiting return to the supplier should be isolated in a "return goods area." Spend a lot of time here since these items are already infested or damaged and a likely source of infestation. Check products, shelves, bins, and pallets. Items awaiting return should be repackaged or sealed in plastic.

Storage.

Make sure items are stored on pallets and that there is enough space around pallets to allow inspection and cleaning. Wooden

Refrigeration area.

Inspect the area above a cooler or walk-in freezer (which may be enclosed by a false front). It's an important site for rodents. Walk-in freezers and coolers may also have a false floor that collects food particles, attracting rodents and other pests. Mice like to nest in the insulation inside refrigeration unit. The warmth of compressor motors attracts cockroaches, mice, and other pests. Carry tools to open access panels so you can check them. Check, too, for excess condensation which can cause mould and mildew and related pest problems. Check for evidence of rodents in conduit access pits. Rats and mice use conduits, pipes, and refrigeration lines under the floor slab as travel routes.

Refuse area.

Inspect the refuse/skip/dustbin area thoroughly as this is where sanitation and hygiene is often forgotten by the client as they have the "out of sight out of mind" attitude and the view is that this is

PLANT PEST & DISEASES
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WOOD PRESERVATION OF UTILITY

POLES

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OUR COURSES ARE AGRISETA
ACCREDITED AND ACCEPTED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES FOR
REGISTRATION AS A PEST CONTROL
OPERATOR

AGRISETA & SAQA REGISTRATION NO:
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FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/FE07/001

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pallets, especially, are hard to clean and can hide pests. Damp wood can attract moisture-loving pests like psocids. All pallets should be on a regular rotation that includes inspection, cleaning, and treatment. Number infested pallets so you can track them for later follow-up. Pallets rotated in from outside should be inspected first since they often bring in outdoor pests.

Check food boxes, bags, and burlap sacks, not just for pests,

the rubbish area so why must we spend money here. These areas are crucial for the pest control operator as this is normally the area where pests are attracted to first because of the abundance of food and water.

Be on the lookout and inspect for conditions that might encourage infestation. Remember pests need food, water and shelter. Find these areas and you will find the pest infestation.

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