

Technical Bulletin

TB 0376B – Rodent Control in Distribution Substations

Date: 14/08/26

Purpose

This technical bulletin has been issued to clarify requirements for the treatment of vermin (specifically rats and mice) in pad-mount, kiosk, ground-mount, and indoor type distribution substations.

This TB will link rodent and pest control requirements for distribution substations to SMI160 – Distribution Substations Standard.

In alignment with environment and sustainability requirements, it also specifies the use of first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGAR) to control rodent infestations.

Background

Rodents in distribution substations are a known cause of cable damage, short-circuit faults, and other network incidents. SMI 106 identifies the need to “treat vermin...” as part of an accommodation ‘Minor Overhaul’ activity, but does not substantiate conditions, needs, or methods for controlling risks.

Actions

Pest control associated with rodents shall be undertaken as part of the SMI106, i.e Section routine maintenance Pest Control (minor) activity. The following requirements are applicable:

1. Rodent baiting shall be conducted in all substations where the cable penetrations are not sealed, or where rodent activity has been identified.
2. The baits shall be placed in rodent trafficable areas such as cableways or similar, or where there is noticeable rat activity (e.g. in communication cabinets etc). Baits and bait stations shall always be used in alignment with the product specifications.
3. Rodent baiting shall be replaced at 6-monthly intervals in alignment with the substation inspection activities.
4. Health and Safety, and Sustainability teams have reviewed products for safety of our people and public exposure risk: Household products with the following active ingredients have been approved for use: warfarin, coumatetralyl or diphacinone.

This bulletin remains effective until incorporated into the relevant maintenance standard or formally withdrawn.



Product list

1. Bait station

General use in areas: Distribution padmounts, switching stations, indoor zone/TS rooms.
Readily available to be purchased from online order or local supermarket.

Website link: [Mouse Corner Bait Station](#)

2. Racumin blocks

Lower-pressure sites with regular maintenance visits

In compliance with Health and Safety, Sustainability perspective - active ingredients approved for use, i.e contains coumatetralyl at a concentration of 0.037% (0.37 g/kg)

Weather-Resistant: The hard wax block allows for gnawing while resisting moisture. They are highly effective in damp environments such as sewers, gutters, or humid outdoor areas where loose grain baits spoil quickly.

Bait Stations Required: You must place baits inside secure, tamper-proof bait stations (as brand is stated above). Baits should not be left out in the open where pets or children can access them.

Dosage: Use 1 to 2 blocks per bait station for mice and rats. Space stations roughly 3 to 10 meters apart, depending on the severity of the infestation

Website link: [Racumin® Rat and Mouse Blocks](#)

General instructions

- Place stations against internal walls of the enclosure, away from cable terminations and live components.
- Inspect at each routine maintenance visit. Replace consumed, mouldy or damaged bait as required. Replace all bait stations and bait material at a maximum interval of 6 months."
- Record activity (rodent sign, bait take) in the maintenance record so we can build a heat-map of high-pressure sites for targeted action.

Impacted Standards

The contents of this Technical Bulletin will impact the following standards:

SMI 160 – Distribution Substations

Contacts

For further information contact: Asset Integrity and Maintenance