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# GLUE TRAPS (OFFENCES) ACT 2022

Practical guidance regarding  
the glue board licensing scheme



# Practical guidance regarding the glue board licensing scheme

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## Introduction

As the British Pest Control Association (BPCA), we understand the concerns and challenges posed by the new licensing regime for glue traps in England.

The changes announced by Defra, effective from 31 July 2024, will significantly impact how pest control professionals operate. Here, we provide practical guidance for pest technicians and companies to navigate these new regulations.

This document will explain:

- The types of licences
- How to apply for a licence
- How to deal with clients unlawfully using glue boards.

### **NOTE**

**THE GLUE TRAPS (OFFENCES) ACT 2022 and the NATURAL ENGLAND LICENSING SCHEME only concerns your clients in ENGLAND.**

- **Northern Ireland** currently has no plans to ban glue boards
- **Scotland** recently concluded with the Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill becoming an Act on 30 April 2024 (although the sections on glue boards are not currently in force)
- **Wales** has a complete ban on glue boards in all circumstances.

### **Accuracy and subject to change**

BPCA makes strenuous efforts to ensure the accuracy and current relevance of its publications, which are intended for use by technically competent persons. However, this does not remove the need for technical and managerial judgement in practical situations. Nor do they confer any immunity or exemption from relevant legal requirements, including by-laws.

If you suspect something in this document is incorrect or out of date, please report it to [technical@bpca.org.uk](mailto:technical@bpca.org.uk) so we can review it.

# Glue board licences

## What has changed?

The new regulations introduced under the Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022 have fundamentally altered the landscape for pest control using glue boards.

Given the ban on glue traps, with exceptions made under the licensing scheme, pest professionals must find new ways to manage critical rodent infestations.

## Types of licences

Licences will only be issued in exceptional circumstances where all alternative methods of rodent control are ineffective or impractical. Only professional pest controllers involved in rodent control management can hold a licence.

There are 2 types of glue trap licence:

- Class licence (CL53) - register in advance to use when needed urgently, in very specific circumstances
- Individual licence (A15) - apply for a single-use licence at the time you need it, to deal with a particular problem at a particular site.

## Class licences (CL53)

Class licences cover very specific, time-critical situations. Once registered, you do not need to inform the licensing authority before acting but must notify them within five working days after using the licences.

The class licence permits glue trap use in the following scenarios:

- Inside aircraft
- In hospital surgery operating rooms and related areas
- In critical infrastructure sites at imminent risk of fire or equipment failure.

Critical infrastructure means sites that maintain public health, safety or security at a regional or national scale.

As the licence holder, you must:

- Remain on site while the traps are in use, or use remote monitoring devices
- Respond to a triggered trap within 2 hours
- Check the traps every 6 hours
- Have a named emergency pest controller to act as a back-up, who will remove traps if you are unable to

- Report to Natural England every time you use the licence .

Class licence registration lasts until 31 December of the year it is issued.

## Individual licences (A15)

Individual licences are for single-use at a particular site and must be applied for at the time of need. These licences are only issued in exceptional circumstances where there is a high risk to public health and safety.

Examples include:

- Sites accommodating large numbers of vulnerable people (eg, Care homes, hospitals)
- Food manufacturing facilities with national or regional distribution
- Laboratories where contamination risks have nationally significant impacts
- Situations such as major building works adjacent to premises like pubs, restaurants, supermarkets, or hotels may qualify for individual licences, ensuring that public health risks are addressed promptly.



The Glue Traps (Offences) Bill initially did not contain a provision for glue board licences. BPCA lobbied the UK government to get a licensing provision included in the Bill.

**"Given the ban on glue traps, with exceptions made under the licensing scheme, pest professionals must find new ways to manage critical rodent infestations."**

## Not covered by licences

All other industries and business types, dwellings/houses.

Glue boards and glue traps will no longer be an option for controlling rodents at these locations. You will need to use alternative methods to control rodents in these situations.

# Practical guidance regarding the glue board licensing scheme

## Licensing requirements

To apply for a licence, pest controllers must:

- Have passed the RSPH level 2 Award in Pest Management
- Complete the Killgerm glue trap online training module (2024 version) or equivalent approved by Natural England
- Provide a reference from another professional pest controller vouching for their competency.

## References

You will need to send a reference with your application if you have not held a glue trap licence in the past three years. Your referee must be a professional pest controller.

Ask your referee to fill in the reference form and return it to you. They can find the form at [gov.uk/government/publications/glue-trap-licence-application-forms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/glue-trap-licence-application-forms)

## Fees

There are costs associated with both types of licences:

Class licence:

- New user registration: £180
- Report of action (at each site): £230
- Annual re-registration: £121

Individual licence:

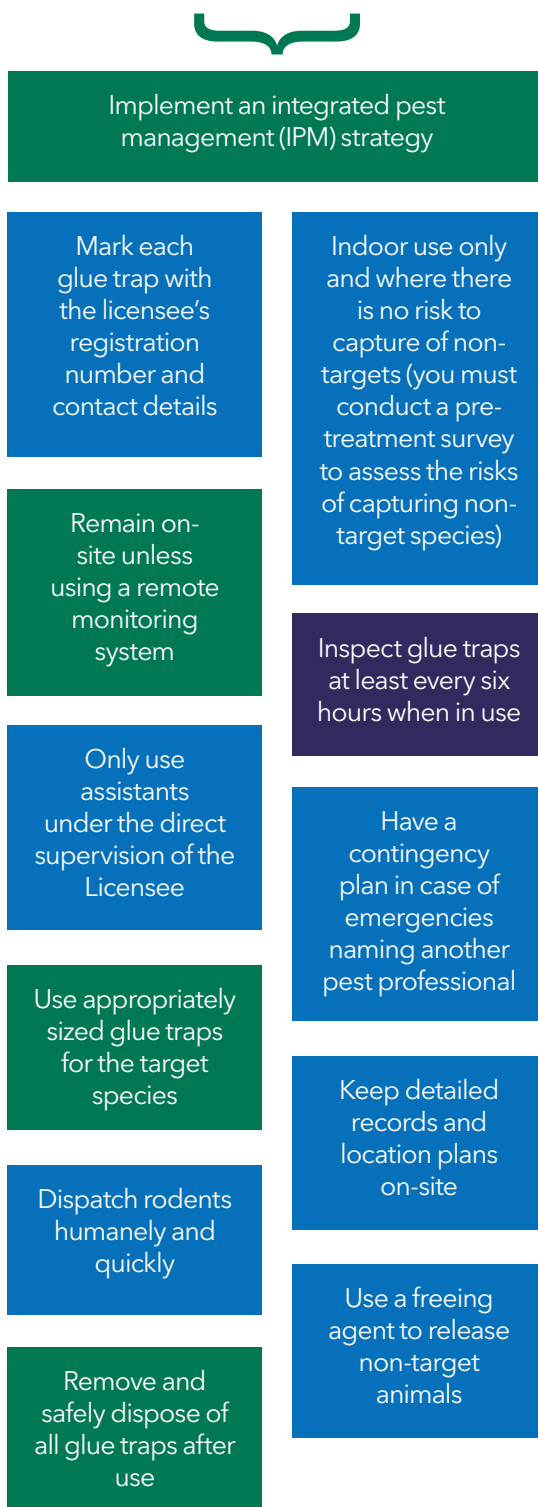
- Application fee: £535
- Additional charges may apply based on an hourly rate of £121 if further information is needed

Fees will only apply if a licence application is successful.

Note these fees are subject to change and the most up-to-date information will be on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

## Operational guidelines

Pest controllers must adhere to strict guidelines when using glue traps:



### Note on operational guidelines

Most of these operational guidelines were already part of the PMA Code of Best Practice on Glue Boards, meaning your working methods are unlikely to change drastically.

The biggest change to working method is you **MUST** remain on-site, unless using remote monitoring and traps **MUST** be checked every six hours. This will likely increase your costs, which you may choose to pass on to your clients.



# Glue board licences

## How to apply

Go to:

[gov.uk/government/publications/glue-trap-licence-application-forms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/glue-trap-licence-application-forms)

Email your completed form to **wildlife@naturalengland.co.uk** or send it by post to:

Wildlife licensing,  
Natural England,  
Horizon House,  
Deanery Road,  
Bristol,  
BS1 5AH



You'll hear whether your application has been successful:

- for a class licence - within 15 working days of receiving the application
- for an individual licence - within 30 working days of receiving the application
- If your application is successful, the licence will be emailed to you. If your application is not successful, you will get an email explaining why.

You must not act under your licence until you've received it from Natural England.

### Applying for class licence registration

When you apply for class licence (CL53) registration you need to include with your form:

- training certificates as evidence of your qualifications
- a reference from a professional pest controller, if you have not held a licence in the past three years.

**"You must not act under your licence until you've received it from Natural England."**

### Applying for an individual licence

When you apply for an individual licence (A15) you will need to send a scaled plan of the site showing:

- the site name
- a red line boundary of the site within which glue traps will be used
- where glue traps will be placed within the site.

You will also need to include with the form:

- training certificates as evidence of your qualifications
- a reference from a professional pest controller, if you have not held a licence in the past 3 years.
- confirmation that you've visited the site where glue traps are to be placed and you have permission from the site owner or occupier.

## Reporting when you use a licence

### Class licence report

Natural England will send you the reporting forms you need with your class licence.

You must fill in and return:

- a 'report of action' within 5 working days every time you use your class licence
- an 'annual report' by 31 January, stating whether you want to renew your class licence registration the following year.

### Individual licence report

You must fill in and return the 'Actions taken under A15 licence report' within 14 days of the licence end date to describe what you did.

Find the 'Actions taken under A15 licence report' at

**[gov.uk/government/publications/glue-trap-licence-application-forms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/glue-trap-licence-application-forms)**

# Practical guidance regarding the glue board licensing scheme

## What to do if you encounter a client using glue boards without a licence?

If you come across a client using glue boards without a licence, you should follow the advice set by Defra:



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

“

A pest controller should safely remove and dispose of an “unmarked” glue trap (by which we mean not set as per licensing requirements) that has been set in a manner which gives rise to a risk that a rodent will become caught.

If they are sure that it has not been set in accordance with a licence and they are not interfering with someone else’s property without their permission (the Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022 does not alter the law on trespass), a pest controller who is unsure whether they should remove a glue trap

should report the matter to the police as soon as possible.

Pest controllers should make any client s/he is working for aware of the law change where glue boards are concerned to reduce the risk of any crime being committed.

If a client chooses to use glue boards without the knowledge of their pest controller and sets them in a manner which gives rise to a risk that a rodent will become caught in the glue trap they would be acting unlawfully.”

**Defra representative, 18 July 2024.**

In practice, we hope pest management companies will try to educate their clients on the new laws and come to an agreement to remove the unlicensed glue trap safely.

Never put yourself or a technician in a dangerous situation. If you feel unsafe, take yourself out of the situation and seek further advice from your manager, BPCA, or the police.

## Final thoughts

The new licensing regime represents a significant shift in how glue traps can be used. As pest professionals, it is crucial to understand these changes and comply with all regulations to ensure public health and safety.

As your Association, we have significant concerns regarding the glue board licensing scheme, and believe it may make it much harder to protect public health. We’re working to influence UK governments, Defra and Natural England to make the scheme workable so you can continue to protect public health.

If your client has been negatively affected by new glue board licences, please get in touch with us to support our campaign for fairer and safer glue board licences.  
[hello@bpca.org.uk](mailto:hello@bpca.org.uk)

BPCA is here to support you through this transition and provide any further guidance needed.

For more detailed information and ongoing updates, visit the Natural England website or contact BPCA directly. Let’s work together to ensure a smooth implementation of these new rules and continue to protect the public effectively.



# Glue Traps (Offences) Act will come into force in England

From the **31 July 2024** glue boards and glue traps can only be used under licence.

## KEY FACTS

- Licences will only be issued for **critical infrastructure** and in **exceptional circumstances**, and where all alternative methods of rodent control are ineffective or impractical.
- Only professional pest controllers involved in rodent control management will be able to hold a licence for glue trapping
- **Northern Ireland** currently has no plans to ban glue boards
- **Scotland** recently concluded with the Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill becoming an Act on 30 April 2024 (although the sections on glue boards are not currently in force)
- **Wales** has a complete ban on glue boards in all circumstances.

## Concerned about how glue board licences will affect your business?

The **British Pest Control Association (BPCA)** believes that these licences may make it more difficult to protect public health.

If your business has been negatively affected by new glue board licences, please get in touch with us to support our campaign for fairer and safer glue board licences.

[hello@bpca.org.uk](mailto:hello@bpca.org.uk)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### What is "critical infrastructure"?

Sites that have a function of maintaining public health, safety or security at a regional or national level/scale.

#### For example:

- National security sites
- National power generation
- Data management sites that support Critical Infrastructure such as nuclear power stations, 999 emergency control rooms, airport control centres or transport control centres.

#### Also considered for a Class Licence:

- Inside aircraft
- In hospital surgery operating rooms and related areas needed for maintaining equipment.

### What are "exceptional circumstances"?

Exceptional Circumstances are considered to be those with a largescale risk to public health and safety, such as;

- Sites accommodating large numbers of vulnerable people such as care homes and hospitals
- Food manufacturing facilities with national and regional distribution
- Laboratories where contamination risk has nationally significant impacts
- Major building works adjacent to premises like pubs, restaurants, supermarkets, or hotels may qualify for individual licences, ensuring that public health risks are addressed promptly.

### All other industries and business types including, dwellings/houses

- These locations **will not** be considered as Critical Infrastructure or for Exceptional Circumstances
- Glue boards and glue traps **will no longer** be an option for controlling rodents at these locations as licences **will not** be granted.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

**Licence type:** Class Licence (for glue trap use)

### How and when to apply:

- If a glue board treatment is required your **pest management company** will apply on your behalf
- You need to register in advance to use this licence
- This licence only covers very specific situations, which are location and time critical
- Every year you will need to state if you want to remain registered.

### Where to use:

- In Critical Infrastructure sites at imminent risk of fire or equipment failure
- Inside aircraft
- In hospital surgery operating rooms.

**Licence type:** Individual Licence (for glue trap use)

### How and when to apply:

- If a glue board treatment is required your **pest management company** will apply on your behalf.

### Where to use:

- Individual licences will only be issued in exceptional circumstances where there is a high risk to public health and safety
- All alternative methods of rodent control must have been tried and proven ineffective for the licence to be granted.

### All other industries and business types including dwellings/houses

Glue boards and glue traps will no longer be an option for controlling rodents at these locations

### What to do

Contact your pest management company to support in constructing an Integrated Pest Management plan for your business.



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