DISTRICT PEST CONTROL LTD

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

COCKROACH INSPECTION, TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT

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1. PURPOSE

This procedure establishes the standard method for the inspection, identification, treatment and management of cockroach infestations using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.

The objective is to:

- Eliminate active infestations.
- Prevent re-infestation.
- Protect public health.
- Minimise pesticide use.
- Prevent environmental contamination.
- Comply with current legislation and industry best practice.

2. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all District Pest Control technicians undertaking cockroach inspections and treatments within:

- Domestic properties.
- Restaurants.
- Hotels.
- Food premises.
- Healthcare facilities.
- Commercial buildings.

- Warehouses.
- Public sector premises.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

Technician

The technician shall:

- Conduct a detailed inspection.
- Confirm species identification.
- Complete a site-specific risk assessment.
- Develop an Integrated Pest Management programme.
- Apply treatments safely.
- Provide recommendations for proofing and sanitation.
- Complete treatment records.

Customer

The customer is responsible for:

- Providing access to affected areas.
- Maintaining cleaning standards.
- Completing corrective actions.
- Reporting further activity.

4. BIOLOGY AND IDENTIFICATION

The most common species encountered are:

German Cockroach (*Blattella germanica*)

Characteristics:

- Light brown.
- Two dark parallel stripes behind the head.
- Approximately 10–15 mm long.

Typically found:

- Kitchens.
- Food preparation areas.
- Electrical appliances.
- Warm service voids.

Oriental Cockroach (*Blatta orientalis*)

Characteristics:

- Dark brown to black.
- Larger and slower moving.
- Approximately 20–30 mm long.

Typically found:

- Basements.
- Drains.
- Boiler rooms.
- External service areas.

American Cockroach (*Periplaneta americana*)

Characteristics:

- Reddish brown.
- Large bodied.
- Up to 40 mm long.

Usually associated with:

- Plant rooms.
- Heating systems.
- Food processing environments.

5. SIGNS OF INFESTATION

Evidence may include:

- Live cockroaches.
- Dead cockroaches.
- Egg cases (oothecae).
- Cast skins.
- Faecal spotting.
- Characteristic odour.
- Customer sightings.

Activity should be confirmed before treatment commences.

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURE

A thorough inspection shall be carried out.

Areas requiring inspection include:

Kitchens

- Under sinks.
- Behind refrigerators.
- Behind cookers.
- Dishwashers.
- Cupboards.
- Food storage areas.

Service Areas

- Pipe penetrations.
- Cable routes.
- Service ducts.
- Boiler rooms.
- Electrical cupboards.

Structural Areas

- Wall voids.
- Ceiling voids.
- Expansion joints.
- Cracks and crevices.

Particular attention should be given to warm, humid and undisturbed locations.

7. MONITORING

Monitoring shall form part of the treatment programme.

Methods may include:

- Sticky monitoring traps.
- Glue boards.
- Visual inspections.
- Customer reports.

Monitoring devices should be numbered and recorded on site plans where applicable.

Monitoring data shall be used to:

- Determine infestation levels.
- Identify harbourages.
- Measure treatment success.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

Prior to treatment technicians shall identify:

- Food preparation areas.

- Sensitive equipment.
- Vulnerable persons.
- Water sources.
- Environmental risks.
- Non-target organisms.

Control measures shall be implemented before treatment begins.

9. SANITATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful cockroach control requires good hygiene standards.

Recommendations may include:

- Removal of food debris.
- Improved waste management.
- Reduction of clutter.
- Elimination of standing water.
- Improved housekeeping practices.

Poor sanitation can significantly reduce treatment effectiveness.

10. PROOFING REQUIREMENTS

Where appropriate, customers shall be advised to:

- Seal cracks and crevices.
- Seal service penetrations.
- Repair damaged flooring.
- Repair leaking pipework.
- Improve door seals.
- Improve structural exclusion measures.

Proofing forms an essential part of long-term control.

11. TREATMENT STRATEGY

District Pest Control adopts an Integrated Pest Management approach.

Control measures may include:

Non-Chemical Control

- Monitoring.
- Vacuum removal.
- Sanitation improvements.
- Proofing works.
- Removal of harbourages.

Chemical Control

- Gel baits.
- Residual insecticides.
- Insect growth regulators.
- Dust formulations where appropriate.

Product selection shall be based on:

- Species present.
- Infestation level.
- Site type.
- Resistance considerations.

12. GEL BAITING

Gel baiting should be considered the primary treatment method where appropriate.

Baits shall be applied:

- Directly to harbourage areas.
- Away from routine cleaning.
- Away from food preparation surfaces.
- In accordance with product labels.

Technicians shall avoid contaminating bait placements with insecticide sprays.

13. RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT

Cockroach populations may develop resistance to insecticides.

Technicians should:

- Rotate active ingredients where appropriate.
- Avoid unnecessary treatments.
- Use monitoring to assess effectiveness.
- Review treatment programmes where activity persists.

Treatment failure should be investigated rather than assuming product failure.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Pesticides shall not be applied:

- Into drains.
- Into watercourses.
- Onto food.
- Onto food preparation surfaces.

- In a manner likely to contaminate the environment.

The minimum amount of pesticide necessary shall be used.

Any accidental contamination shall be reported immediately.

15. CUSTOMER ADVICE

Customers shall be advised that:

- Activity may increase initially after treatment.
- Dead cockroaches may be found following treatment.
- Egg cases may continue to hatch following the first visit.
- Multiple visits are often required.

The customer should report ongoing activity between visits.

16. FOLLOW-UP VISITS

Follow-up inspections are essential.

A second visit should normally be scheduled within:

14–28 days

depending on:

- Species present.
- Infestation severity.
- Site type.
- Monitoring results.

Further visits may be required for large or established infestations.

17. REFUSAL OF TREATMENT

Treatment may be postponed or refused where:

- Access is restricted.
- Significant contamination risks exist.
- Customer preparation has not been completed.
- Health and safety risks cannot be controlled.

Reasons shall be recorded.

18. RECORDS

The technician shall record:

- Species identified.
- Areas inspected.
- Monitoring locations.
- Products used.
- Quantities applied.
- Recommendations issued.
- Follow-up requirements.

Treatment reports shall be completed after every visit.

19. REVIEW

This procedure shall be reviewed annually or following:

- Legislative changes.
- Product changes.
- Significant incidents.
- Changes in industry guidance.

20. SUMMARY

Successful cockroach control relies upon:

- Accurate identification.
- Thorough inspection.
- Monitoring.
- Sanitation.
- Proofing.
- Appropriate pesticide use.
- Follow-up inspections.

Integrated Pest Management remains the most effective long-term approach to cockroach control.