

2.8.2. Cleanliness of Storage Areas

Standard

Are storage areas clean and tidy and have steps been taken to minimise vermin and presence?

Refer to the SFMCA document [Feed Mill Hygiene Guide](#) and [FeedSafe Mill Hygiene Training Module](#).

Purpose

To maintain a standard of cleanliness in all storage areas that upkeeps mill hygiene and minimises vermin and other pest presence.

Reason

The cleanliness of storage areas is imperative to ensure ingredients or finished products are not contaminated pests. The benefits of a clean and tidy storage area will:

- Reduce potential contamination of ingredient or finished feeds by vermin infestations.
- Improve company image to internal and external stakeholders.
- Reduce insect, rodent and animal presence.

What is Acceptable?

Site inspections and Monitoring

Regular cleaning and adherence to Feed Mill hygiene will ensure the upkeep of storage areas is maintained. For regular cleaning procedures, see Fact Sheet 2.7.1 and 2.7.2 and Feed Mill Hygiene Guide in Fact Sheet 2.7.3.

The information obtained from the mill inspection will assist in determining if sanitation, maintenance, housekeeping, and other prerequisite programs are functioning properly or if adjustments or modifications need to be made to assist in managing the pest population.

Documented Pest Control Management Program

For the control of vermin, operators shall have a written pest control management program (See Fact Sheet 2.8.1). Records and pest trends shall be documented.

General Housekeeping

Clean, and tidy storage areas are facilitated by appropriate layout and design to allow cleaning and pest management, particularly between and behind racking (where applicable). The appropriate FIFO/FEFO stock management, will reduce the attraction of vermin from spoiled raw materials.

General site cleanliness should be maintained to minimise ingress and harbourage for insects and rodents.

Raw material and finished product spills should be cleaned up as soon as possible to minimise potential food source for insects, birds, and rodents. Trash areas should be kept to a minimum to eliminate potential harbourage areas for rodents. Pallet stacking areas should not be located close to facility walls.

Stored Product Warehouses

Ensure that product storage areas have an accessible, 50 cm perimeter along the warehouse wall to allow for proper cleaning and inspection.

- Keep all doors closed when not in use, including both pedestrian and roll-up.
- If insect screens are used, ensure they are adequate to protect against pest entry.
- If bird control roller door curtains are used, ensure they are maintained.
- Maintain dock plate brushes to prevent pest entry.

- Seal floor/wall junctions and ceiling/wall junctions to prevent pest entry and harbourage (hint, when closed if you can see light through a gap then the seal is incomplete).
- Seal around all equipment legs to prevent pest harbourage.
- Maintain floors to avoid cracks or pits, as these allow product accumulation and pest harbourage.
- Clean structural overhead and support beams on a frequency that will prevent pest harbourage.
- Repair cracked or pitted floors to prevent product accumulations and pest harbourage.
- Remove/cover possible bird landing areas in and around production areas.

Packaging Area Sanitation

- Package materials should be stored in a location that minimises pest harbourage and ingress.
- Clean structural overhead and support beams on a frequency to prevent pest harbourage.
- Set cleaning frequencies to avoid product accumulations. This frequency will depend on your operating environment.
- Avoid placing insect light traps near doorways.

Bait Stations and Traps

The pest control program should start at the property perimeters, especially for rodents. Baits should be of a solid formulation in most cases and stations secured to the fence line. This prevents rodents or other non-target organisms from removing them from the bait stations. The rodent bait station locations should be marked on a schematic location map for periodic inspection and maintenance by trained personnel (i.e., monthly at least and more often if rodent presence is heavy). Observations of pest activity must be documented in a log. Reduction of bait stations can be considered as rodent activity decreases.

Spot Fumigation

Spot fumigation using phosphine shall be used as per the Fumigation Task Instruction and the Phosphine Safety Fact Sheet. Phosphine is effective against insects in most types of grain. But some commodities (for example, oilseeds, linseed, cottonseed) soak up phosphine very quickly, leaving little to kill insects.

Aerosol Fogging

Thermal fogging or misting will be used in sealed and contained storage areas and warehouses if required. Application shall be by licensed pest control operator, or highly trained personnel. Only natural pyrethrum chemicals shall be used.

Raw Materials

All incoming raw materials shall be inspected for live insect activity. Under GTA Standards, all commodities that contain live insects can and shall be rejected prior to receipt onto the site.

Bulk commodity unloading areas shall be maintained in a clean and tidy state. All spillage and overflow shall be cleaned up immediately unloading has finished. Grain and meal intake pits should be maintained in a clean and dry state. Any equipment leaks shall be fixed as soon as possible.

Accurate labelling of packaged raw materials, feed additives and medications will allow appropriate storage management and reduce contamination of products.

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