3T – Tiered Trap Testing Approach at the German Environment Agency

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Section IV 1.4
Health Pests and their Control
Certification of Traps – the Context

Infectious Disease Protection Act

• §17: Competent authorities may order measures to control health pests

• §18: in this context, only products and methods are allowed that have been approved by the German Environment Agency beforehand

• voluntary process
Tiered trap testing approach

1. Technical/mechanical properties
   Is the trap “capable” of actually killing an animal according to animal welfare standards?

2. Conditioning phase
   Do rodents visit the trap under no-choice conditions?

3. No-choice test
   Does the trap kill according to animal welfare standards?

4. Choice test
   Is the trap attractive enough?

Testing will be aborted

§18 list
Tier 1: technical properties

Measuring (clamping) force

- applies only to mechanical traps
- collecting data from different traps to determine a threshold
- Once established: (clamping) force of mechanical traps need to meet this threshold
Tier 2: conditioning phase + no-choice

Conditioning phase during no-choice test

- Setting-in phase
  - Mice: 7 days
  - Rats: 14 days
- Conditioning to non-activated traps via attractive bait
- RFID transponder: measuring trap visits
- criteria: ≥90% visitors
RFID transponder

reading range

reader
Tier 2: conditioning phase + no-choice

no-choice test

humaneness of trap

- Categorie A and B according to AIHTS* standards
- time span until irreversible unconsciousness
  - Categorie A: \( \geq 80\% \) in 30s and \( \geq 90\% \) in 60s
  - Categorie B: \( \geq 80\% \) in 60s and \( \geq 90\% \) in 120s

*Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards
Tier 3: choice test

Attractiveness of a trap

- Choice test with 2 groups of each 10 individuals
- Measuring the number of visitors on non-activated traps via RFID transponders
- Exposure to traps
  - Mice: 7 days
  - Rats: 28 days (neophobia)
- criteria: ≥90% visitors
Thank you for your attention!

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