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**BRITISH RAILWAYS**

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**Information and Instructions**

**regarding**

**Infestation of Commodities,**

**Equipment and Premises**

**by Insects, Rats and Mice.**

*July 1955*

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# BRITISH RAILWAYS

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## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

### REGARDING

### INFESTATION OF COMMODITIES,

### EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES

### BY INSECTS, RATS AND MICE.

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## **INFESTATION OF COMMODITIES, EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES BY INSECTS, RATS AND MICE.**

The following information has been compiled with a view to preventing the spread of infestation, reducing infestation in premises and in transit, and avoiding damage from which claims may result.

### **A. INFESTATION OF GRAIN, ANIMAL FEEDING STUFFS AND OTHER COMMODITIES BY INSECT PESTS.**

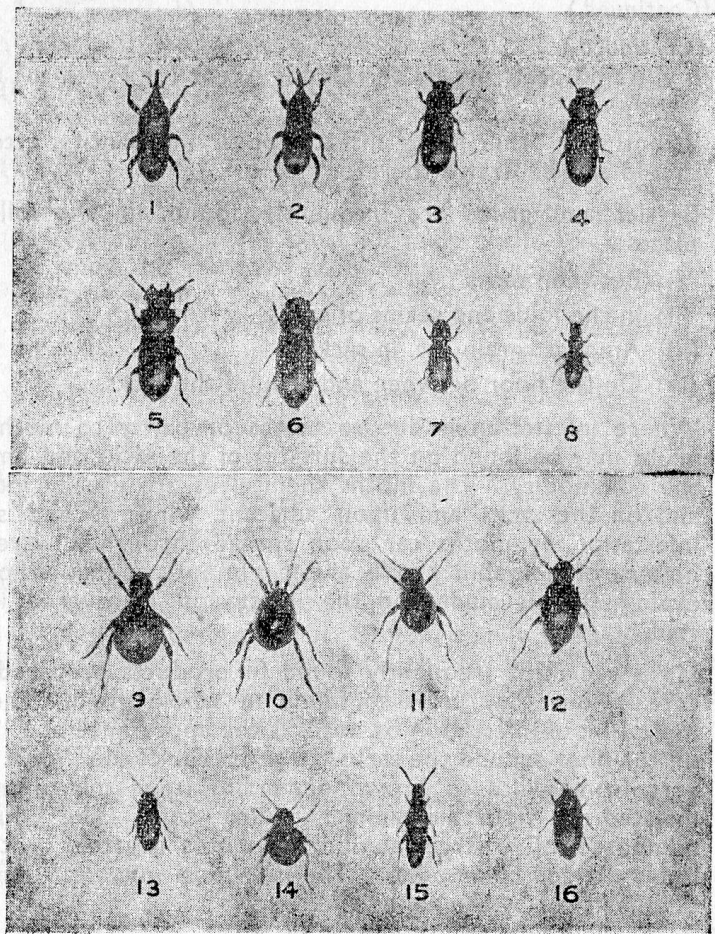
#### **1. Types of traffic particularly liable to infestation.**

Animal Fibres	Grain Products	Pollards
Beans	Ground Nut	Poultry Food
Bran	Flakes	Rice
Cotton	Leather	Rice Meal
Cotton Waste	Maize	Silk Waste
Dog Biscuits	Maize Meal	Skins
Feeding Cake	Meals	Vegetable
Feeding Meals	Nuts	Fibres
Flour	Oil Cake	Wool
Grain	Peas	

#### **2. Kind of Pests.**

- (a) The insects usually found are of two types, beetles and moths, and both pass through the larval (grub) stage. Grubs and beetles may be from one tenth of an inch to two inches long and moths from quarter of an inch to one inch long.

The illustrations on page 3 are some of the common insects (magnified three times) which may be found in consignments of grain, feeding cake, etc., in store or in transit :—



No. on Print	Name of Insect	No. on Print	Name of Insect
1	Calandra Oryzae	9	Niptus hololeucus
2	Calandra granaria	10	Gibbium psylloides
3	Tribolium confusum	11	Mezium affine
4	Tribolium castaneum	12	Ptinus tectus
5	Gnathocerus cornutus (male)	13	Cryptophagus cellaris
6	Gnathocerus cornutus (female)	14	Trigonogenius globulus
7	Rhizopertha dominica	15	Atheta trinotata
8	Orvzaepphilus surinamensis	16	Typhaea stercorea

## **A. 2—(Continued.)**

### **(a)—(Continued.)**

If you find pests, notify the Goods Agent (or Foreman) immediately.

If moths or other flying insects appear in quantity, attention should also be drawn thereto.

- (b)** Beetles and grubs are frequently found in the following places:—
  - (i)** Between sacks.
  - (ii)** In the folds and seams of sacks.
  - (iii)** Amongst grain etc. in sacks.
  - (iv)** On the floor between and around the sacks.
- (c)** Where infestation is due to moths or partly to moths, the grubs may be found on the surfaces of the sacks and amongst the commodity. The moths themselves are usually found in and on the sacks and upon adjacent windows and stocks. Infestation by moths can soon spread through a warehouse because of their ability to fly and it is important that a thorough examination is made and the infestation discovered in the grub stage.
- (d)** Mites are most frequently found in products prepared from cereals, but they are also found in whole grain. The first indication of infestation by mites is the appearance of a “dust” on the floor around the sacks. The colour of the “dust” will vary from white to brown depending upon the commodity infested e.g. flour and animal feeding stuffs. The “dust” is composed of a large number of mites together with the finely divided commodity. The individual mites can rarely be distinguished by the naked eye.
- (e)** If punctured grains are present in whole grain traffic infestation should be assumed.

## **3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFESTATION.**

### **(i) Examination of Traffic.**

- (a)** All traffic liable to infestation must be carefully examined when received by the railway. If intended for storage, it must also be examined at the time of unloading and if infested must not be warehoused.
- (b)** Where empty private sacks are tendered by traders for storage or despatch by rail and traces of infestation are discovered or suspected, they must be refused.

### **(ii) Storage.**

- (a)** Storage accommodation must be clean, well ventilated, water-tight and not artificially heated.

**A. 3—(Continued.)**

**(ii) Storage—(Continued.)**

- (b) A space of not less than two feet must be left between adjacent stacks.
- (c) Sacks must not be loaded against warehouse walls and partitions, a minimum space of 1' 6" being left.
- (d) Floors and walls must be kept clean. Droppings from sacks must be removed from the floor immediately barrowing is completed. Sweepings from floors must be removed from warehouses immediately and, unless they are forthwith removed from the station premises, burned at once.

**N.B.—**The concluding sentence of this paragraph does not apply to Sack Cleansing Depots.

- (e) Traffic in store must be examined externally at weekly intervals; when grain is stored in sacks, the contents must be examined monthly.
- (f) When grain is stored in bulk, frequent examination must be made at the fringe of the pile and at the highest parts. The temperature must be taken daily by means of a thermometer on a spear head and the readings recorded. When the temperature exceeds 63°F. more frequent examination is necessary as conditions are more favourable for the development of pests.
- (g) Empty sacks must be stored as far apart from grain products as practicable.
- (h) Delivery of traffic from store must, as far as possible be made in the order of arrival and the owner's attention directed to any traffic lying on hand for considerable periods.

**4. When infestation is found or suspected.**

- (a) If infestation of premises, equipment and/or traffic is observed or suspected, a report must be made immediately to the District Commercial Officer who will inform his Chief Commercial Manager and a section of the Research Department as follows:—

E.R.	Area Chemist	Doncaster.
L.M.R.	Research Dept., 79 Corporation St.	Manchester.
N.E.R.	Area Chemist	Darlington.
Scot. R.	Research Dept., 79 Corporation St.	Manchester
Stn. R.	Area Chemist.	Ashford, Kent.
W.R.	Area Chemist	Swindon.

The Research Department will offer technical advice regarding treatment.

#### **A. 4—(Continued).**

- (b) If the infestation is in a warehouse or traffic stored therein, the District Commercial Officer will arrange with the appropriate organisation for treatment to be applied (see Clause 5 (i)). If the infestation is of traffic underload, arrangements are to be made for the disinfection of rail and road vehicles and sheets (see Clause 5 (ii)).
- (c) If, when despatching traffic, senders declare that it is infested, or if, after loading, it is found to be infested, receiving station must be wired and given details of invoice, wagon numbers, etc., so that the traffic is not placed in the warehouse.  

In addition the invoice and wagon labels must be endorsed "Infested." The report mentioned in Clause 4 (a) must indicate that these instructions have been carried out.
- (d) If traffic known to be infested is received, a report as in Clause 4 (a) must be made. The report should also indicate whether the traffic was invoiced as infested, whether consignee is clearing direct from wagons, and whether the wagons and sheets are being disinfested.
- (e) When traffic is refused by consignee owing to infestation the usual procedure for reporting "Traffic refused" is to be followed. In addition a report as mentioned in Clause 4 (a) must be submitted.
- (f) Where there is any dispute with the owners of traffic that infestation exists, a special report must be made immediately to the District Commercial Officer.

#### **5. Remedial Measures.**

##### **(i) Infested Premises.**

The District Commercial Officer will arrange for vacuum cleaning, chemical spraying and/or treatment of floors. The B.T.C. Research Department, Manchester, the Chief Commercial Manager, Eastern Region and the Chief Mechanical & Electrical Engineer, Western Region, have experienced staff and vacuum cleaning and spraying equipment suitable for the purpose. Any instructions given must be promptly carried out.

##### **(ii) Infested Equipment.**

- (a) Wagons and cartage vehicles must be well swept with a hard broom, special attention being paid to the crevices, and the sweepings immediately burned. Open wagons and cartage vehicles must then be thoroughly hosed ; when dry, they are ready for service.



**A. 5—(Continued).**

**(ii) Infested Equipment—continued.**

Covered wagons, after sweeping, must be sent for treatment to :—

E.R.	Area Chemist	Cattle Dock	<b>Doncaster.</b>
L.M.R.	" "	" "	<b>Derby</b>
L.M.R.	" "	Thomas St. Wharf	<b>Crewe</b>
L.M.R.	" "	Locomotive Works	<b>Horwich</b>
N.E.R.	" "	Bank Top Goods	<b>Darlington</b>
Scot. R.	" "	Cattle Dock	<b>St. Rollox</b>
Sthn. R.	" "	C. and W. Works	<b>Ashford,</b> <b>Kent.</b>
W.R.	C. and W. Engineer	C. and W. Works	<b>Swindon</b>

- (b) Sheets must be spread on the ground, swept thoroughly on both sides and well hosed on both sides. Special care must be taken to clean out all flaps and seams.
- (c) Sacks (railway owned) must be placed inside a clean sack, tightly tied at the mouth and sent to the nearest Sack Depot for Cleansing. The labels and invoice must be endorsed "Infested—for Cleansing" and an advice of despatch sent separately to the depot.

**B. INFESTATION OF PREMISES BY RATS AND MICE.**

Spillage of foodstuffs and accumulations of rubbish encourage rats and mice, therefore, all possible means must be employed to keep premises in a clean condition.

An attempt must be made by the local staff to keep rats and mice under control by the use of traps which may be requisitioned from the Stores Dept. If this method does not prove effective the District Officer must be informed so that arrangements may be made for experienced staff to deal with the problem by the use of poison baits.