

## **Anti-rodent Charter Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is Anti-rodent Charter (the “Charter”)?**

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) has launched the “Anti-rodent Charter” for property management companies/owners’ corporations/residents’ organisations of private residential premises, transitional housing, subsidised sales flats and Tenants Purchase Scheme estates, with a view to enhancing residents’ awareness and cultivating their good habit of maintaining good environmental hygiene as well as encouraging community participation in its efforts on routine anti-rodent measures to reduce the risk of rodent infestation.

### **2. Why is there a need to sign the Charter?**

Rodents not only transmit diseases to human but also cause nuisance. Besides, they will cause property damage and thus economic loss. Successful prevention and control of rodents relies on the concerted efforts and active participation of relevant stakeholders including pest control operators in both public and private sectors, venue management (e.g. the management personnel of residential and commercial buildings, recreational facilities, markets and food premises) as well as the general public for implementation of good hygienic practices complemented by effective rodent-prevention measures by adopting a three-pronged approach to eliminate the three fundamental survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, so as to achieve sustainable anti-rodent effect and prevent the reproduction of rodents.

### **3. Who can sign the Charter?**

The property management companies/owners’ corporations/residents’ organisations of private residential premises, subsidised sales flats and Tenants Purchase Scheme estates are invited to sign the Charter. The FEHD also accepts applications from the operating organisations or their representatives of other residential premises, including transitional housing

projects and estates of other subsidised housing schemes, to sign the Charter.

#### **4. What are the objectives of the Charter?**

- (i) To raise public awareness of rodent prevention and control, facilitating the creation of a rodent-free environment;
- (ii) To drive behavioural change of the public and cultivate their good habits on maintaining good environmental hygiene; and
- (iii) To encourage community participation in the routine anti-rodent efforts to reduce the risk of rodent infestation.

#### **5. What do the participants have to do?**

By signing the Charter, the participants are committed to -

- assigning one to two anti-rodent liaison ambassadors to coordinate anti-rodent efforts in their residential estates/buildings;
- carrying out regular inspections and arranging necessary repair and maintenance works for the facilities, and ensuring suitable cleaning/refuse removal of the residential estates/buildings;
- implementing anti-rodent measures within the residential estates/buildings (please refer to “Rodent-proofing Measures in Residential Premises” and “Checklist for Anti-rodent Work (Residential Estates/Buildings)”);
- monitoring the service quality and performance of the hired pest control service contractors;
- maintaining the relevant records of pest control work properly; and
- conveying anti-rodent messages to residents through promotion and education, encouraging them to improve environmental conditions and cultivate habits of maintaining good personal hygiene and a clean

environment.

## **6. What supports and guidance are available to help participants implement the Charter commitments?**

“Rodent-proofing Measures in Residential Premises” and “Checklist for Anti-rodent Work (Residential Estates/Buildings)” will provide participants with more information on how to implement anti-rodent measures within residential estates/buildings (e.g. the installation of rat guards at suitable locations for blocking the passage of rodents). Participants may also attend the seminars on rodent control and prevention organised by the FEHD. More reference materials on rodent prevention and control are available on the following FEHD website -

[https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pestcontrol/pest\\_control\\_pamphlet.html](https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pestcontrol/pest_control_pamphlet.html)

## **7. What are the benefits for signing the Charter?**

Participants will enjoy the following rewards for their support and efforts in signing the Charter -

- A Charter certificate and stickers presented by the FEHD for display in their premises;
- Invitations to attend pest control seminars organised by the FEHD;
- Free anti-rodent technical support from the FEHD; and
- Recognition of the participating organisations and premises through publication of a list of them on a dedicated webpage of the FEHD.

## **8. Will the participating organisations be disclosed or disqualified if their premises are complained for rodent infestation after signing the Charter?**

The participating organisations can seek technical advice on rodent control from the FEHD and assist the venue management personnel in implementing effective anti-rodent measures. The FEHD reserves all

rights, including the right to disqualify any approved participating organisation of the Charter in the event that it fails to fulfill the commitments in the Charter.