

## Readying for 2010 – pest control and food safety

Numbers of people globally are affected by food borne diseases as a direct result of negligence and lack of information regarding food safety regulations. As the food industry needs to gear up for the huge demands 2010 will bring, the pest control industry needs to be factored into these demands. In light of this, the Ethekwini Municipality's Health Department in KZN hosted the first of a series of Food Advisory Day seminars, which started during October 2009. The seminars addressed measures that seek to improve the level of food safety in the City and to ensure that the formal food sector complies with the regulations and the requirement related to food safety.

"The City is concerned about the safety of its citizens and visitors. Knowing that most people rely on formal food sectors and that the 2010 FIFA World Cup is upon us, we need to be certain that all food retailers in the city follow all the food protocol

precautions which must be properly monitored by the health officials" says Siva Chetty, the Deputy Head of Pollution Control and Risk Management in Durban.

The importance on food safety places a great amount of pressure on the pest control industry to improve its services.

Pest Control companies should thoroughly train their staff to implement the correct procedures for all anticipated pests, use appropriate elimination methods and have proper training in place for staff on food hygiene and basic HACCP. Professional pest control companies should ensure that all pest control services are conducted by equipped and registered pest control operators. A copy of the current registration certificate should be kept on site. With summer in full swing, approved fly control units should be appropriately placed in high-risk zones.

Fly units should have appropriate

mechanisms that trap flies to ensure that contamination from insect debris on the surrounding food production areas are prevented. Most importantly, the supplier should be a member of an industry controlling body such as SAPCA (South African Pest Control Association). These are just a few suggestions specified by Rentokil Pest Control.

"Consumers should not only rely on their pesticides and their pest control companies to eliminate their pest infestations but they should be focusing more on preventative measures and use Integrated Pest Management techniques which are in line with Pest Control in the 21st Century. Besides food and safety regulations, we need to develop a strong culture where food safety is considered a priority by all persons who are involved in the preparation and serving of food," says Deena Govender, Quality Assurance Manager for Rentokil Pest Control. [RICK](#)