



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Product Testing Training Manual



Photo by Mike Carraway, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

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Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the process by which bear-resistant products and devices designed to deliver toxicant to feral hogs will be tested through the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program. We begin by providing some background about SEAFWA and the reason for testing bear-resistant products with captive black bears.

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) is a group of state agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources in 15 states, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Member states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. One of SEAFWA's activities is to "sponsor cooperative fish and wildlife programs among member states and other entities to address issues of mutual interest and to benefit fish and wildlife resources." The Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program was implemented to benefit the region's increasing black bear and human population.

Recovering and managing black bears in the Southeast becomes increasingly complex as numbers of people and bears on the landscape continue to grow. Unsecured human food, garbage and other attractants is now a major source of human-bear conflicts. That makes availability of reliable products to secure a variety of bear attractants vitally important to prevention of conflicts and in many cases, permanent removal of bears. The objective of this program is to provide information about the effectiveness of bear-resistant products and ultimately provide residents with the information they need to live responsibly in areas with black bears.



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Program Purpose

The purpose of the SEAFWA Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program is to:

1. Identify effective products that minimize easy and direct access to attractants by black bears.
2. Evaluate a product's ability to prevent a black bear from accessing the contents contained within that product, including products designed or marketed to deliver wildlife toxicants.
3. Facilitate the development of new and improved bear-resistant products and options for deterring bears.
4. Provide consistent and science-based guidance, including a list of products that passed the SEAFWA Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program, to the public and to wildlife professionals.

Please note that passing the SEAFWA testing process does not assert that these products are 100% bear-proof and does not guarantee that products will never be accessed by bears. Passing the SEAFWA test also does not guarantee that small amounts of the contents of the containers won't be able to leak or spill out.

The SEAFWA Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program consists of a series of Phases and Steps coordinated by the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). The Phases and Steps are as follows:

- Phase 1. Initial Evaluation conducted by WMI (All products)
- Phase 2. Captive Black Bear Test - Conducted by Approved Captive Bear Testing Facilities.
 - Step 1 Visual Inspection
 - Step 2(a) Lightweight Product Testing
 - Step 2(b) Heavyweight Product Testing
 - Step 3 Technical Evaluation by WMI (When required)
- Phase 3. Wild Black Bear Test Conducted at Field Sites in the Southeastern United States.
(For devices designed or marketed for toxicant delivery).

NOTE: Captive black bear facilities will participate in Phase 2, Steps 1-2 of the testing process.



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Procedures for Captive Black Bear Testing

This manual describes the process by which approved facilities housing permanent, captive, black bears will test bear-resistant products under the direction of WMI. Products submitted for testing may include a variety of commercially available food storage products, garbage containers, and wildlife feeders.

Plastic products may include coolers, plastic horse/mule panniers, backpacking canisters, residential garbage cans, and other types of storage products. Lightweight metal products may include aluminum dry boxes, horse/mule panniers, storage boxes and cases, and wildlife feeders.

Products will undergo an initial evaluation and screening by WMI to ensure they meet minimum standards for bear-resistance and captive bear testing. Products meeting these requirements will be cleared for captive bear testing at an approved WMI testing facility.

Once a product has been cleared for testing, WMI will confirm that the facility is able to conduct the test. WMI will then notify the product submitter and connect them with the testing facility. Finally, the product submitter and testing facility will select a testing date and the product submitter will arrange to get their product(s) to the facility for testing.

NOTE: Only one of each product model should be tested. If the product fails the test, it can be modified and retested, or a different version of the product can be tested. The testing facility will decide if they can accommodate another test on the same day.

Arranging for the Captive Bear Product Test

1. Schedule Test Date— Product testing runs from April 1st through November 31st. If the product submitter would like to be present for the test, the testing facility should coordinate with them to select a date that works for both parties. This is also the time to notify appropriate zoo facility staff of the scheduled test.
2. Coordinate with additional bear keepers, the curator and the zoo veterinarian (and any other zoo staff) regarding any proposed changes to the bears' diet related to the testing event (i.e., bait, enrichment in the enclosure/habitat, overall amount of food fed for diet, etc.).
3. Provide any special instructions to the product submitter so their product is delivered correctly to the facility (this is especially important for larger products like garbage carts).
4. Notify WMI of the scheduled testing date and the product to be tested.
5. If desired, publicize the test date to invite the public to watch the testing.



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Preparing for the Captive Bear Product Test

1. Make sure the necessary supplies are on hand (i.e., bait, SD cards, camcorder, tripod, data sheets, staff, and external hard drive).
2. Familiarize testing personnel with testing equipment (especially camcorder) and with the product being tested (how product opens, closes and latches). You don't want to be struggling with this at the time of testing!
3. Charge the camcorder batteries and camera batteries if applicable. It is important to be ready to start recording the test from the beginning because the camcorder will be used to track the amount of "bear contact time" that the product receives.
4. Complete the first section of the "Product Testing Form" by filling in the contact information for the product submitter and the product being tested.
5. Record the product name/model number on the outside of the product in paint marker or vinyl stickers in BIG, BOLD letters and numbers so they can be seen from the viewing area (Fig. 1).
6. Perform a visual inspection of the product to ensure that the product is safe for the bears and facility staff.



Figure 1. Model number of product (applied in vinyl letters - green arrow) is viewable from the bear enclosure viewing area.



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Performing the Visual Inspection

Testing personnel should perform a visual inspection of the product prior to testing. The purpose of the visual inspection is to ensure that the product does not have loose parts or sharp points or edges that could injure testing personnel or bears.

The visual inspection consists of two steps:

Step 1 - Inspect the product(s) to ensure that it/they is/are clean and free of loose parts and debris, sharp edges, corners or points that may be harmful to you or the bears.

Testing personnel have the right to refuse testing of products that may be dangerous for the bears (e.g., products that have sharp edges, protrusions, loose parts, extremely heavy lids, etc.).

- If the product is deemed safe for testing, proceed to Step 2.
- If the product has defects that make it unsafe or potentially harmful to the bears or staff, notify the manufacturer of the defects and proceed based upon one of the two following options:
 - a) If the product can be modified on-site to correct the defects, and you have the flexibility to accommodate them, allow manufacturer to make corrections and then proceed with testing.
 - b) If corrections cannot be made in a timely manner or the product must be modified off-site, reschedule the test and notify WMI that the current test was cancelled or rescheduled.

Step 2 - Take “**BEFORE**” photographs of product(s) while you are performing the visual inspection. Make sure you take a lot of photos before the test because things can get hectic when testing starts (Fig. 2). Keep in mind that after the product leaves the facility, you lose the ability to get photographs.

- Photograph sides, front, back and top of the product(s).
- Photograph latches (inside and outside of product) to show how product latches.



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Figure 2. Photos of test products taken prior to testing.



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Conducting the Captive Bear Product Test

1. Complete the information on the test data sheet (see Appendix B) by recording the bait used, bear(s) used (names), weather conditions at time of test, and name of person conducting test.
2. Confirm that “before” photos of product have been taken and put a check on the line (on the data form) to confirm that pictures have been taken.
3. Make sure the camcorder is ready to start recording and place it on the tripod in the location where filming will take place. This should be done **before** the product is placed in the bear enclosure to ensure that filming can start as soon as the bears begin interacting with the product.
4. Bait the test product according to the following guidelines:
 - a) Place an appropriate attractant (i.e., food item) inside the container. Use foods that are not part of the bears’ normal diet whenever possible. Using novel foods will help get the bears interested in the product. When testing wildlife feeders, an attractant intended for use in the feeder shall be used when possible.

NOTE: WMI provides a list of food items that could be used to bait products (Appendix C). We understand that your bears might have specific dietary needs and restrictions and that not all of these foods will be allowable according to the zoo’s dietary guidelines. The list of foods provided by Wildlife Management Institute is meant to provide ideas for baits. When possible, please use foods from this list as it helps provide consistency in our testing. Please consult with appropriate zoo personnel to ensure that bear diet protocols are not violated.

- b) Put a food item that makes noise inside the product (i.e., dog kibble, bones, apples, grapes or other hard fruit (Fig. 3).



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Figure 3. Containers baited with fruits that make a sound when bear rolls product.

- c) Apply a small amount of something that smells interesting or tastes good to latches, hinges and other vulnerable areas of the product (Fig. 4).

NOTE: Do not apply too much bait to the outside of the container/product or the bear(s) will spend too much time licking the product rather than really working to get into it. Be conservative when applying bait to the outside of a product. One teaspoon of something tasty applied to vulnerable areas should be adequate.



Figure 4. Bait applied to latches and inside rim of products.



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- d) If the bears are not very hungry or if they tend to fight over novel items, a trapping lure like beaver castor oil or marten lure might get the bears interested in the product without causing fights.
5. Ensure that products are closed and secured as per the manufacturer's instructions. When the product is latched and baited, place it inside the bear enclosure. It's ok for products to undergo contact by a number of bears of various sizes and with varying levels of experience with products.
6. Release the bears into the enclosure, allow them to begin interacting with the product, and start filming and timing the test. Begin filming the test (hit "record" button) as soon as the bears make physical contact with the product. Record only "bear contact time" which is defined as "biting, pounding, clawing, rolling, compressing, chewing or scratching" the product.

Time the test using a stopwatch or the time counter on the camcorder. Camcorders can be used to track bear contact time by pausing recording (push the "record" button to put the recording on stand-by mode) when the bear stops interacting with the test product. If the bear returns to the product, press the "record" button again to begin recording again.

For example, if the bear is rolling the cooler along the ground and stops, walks away, goes for a quick swim and then goes back to the product, the camcorder should be paused at the point when the bear walks away from the cooler and is NOT interacting with the product. Similarly, when testing coolers and backpacking canisters, bear contact time stops if the product is taken into a water feature/pond. Once the product is in the water, you won't be able to tell if or when the product is breached.

Interpreting Captive Bear Product Testing with the Public

Bear-resistant products testing is a great opportunity to talk to your visitors about why there is a need for bear-resistant products, why product testing is important, and how testing of bear-resistant products is helping bears in the wild. If you would like help developing a script for use in interpreting the program, the Testing Program Coordinator can assist you.

You might get questions about whether this testing program is part of the program that uses grizzly bears in West Yellowstone to test bear-resistant products. That program, overseen by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) is widely recognized and is separate from the black bear testing program. Products that pass the IGBC testing protocol are considered to be grizzly bear-resistant and are listed on the IGBC web site.



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Declaring the Captive Bear Test Complete

A product test is complete when one of two things happens. A product fails if it is breached by the bears before it accumulates 60 minutes of bear contact time. If 60 minutes of bear contact time is reached and the product remains intact and functional, the product is considered to “pass” the test.

It is a good idea to keep shooting video footage beyond the 60 minutes in case it is later determined that some of the bear contact time counted during the test should not be included. Extra footage also helps when products are breached after the 60-minute mark but for one reason or another, it is difficult to determine exactly when the product was breached. You can go back and review the video footage and if it turns out that you counted time that you shouldn’t have, you’ll have extra documented bear contact time.

If you have questions about what counts as bear contact time or whether a product has passed, please contact the Testing Program Coordinator.

Completing the Captive Bear Product Test

1. Try to retrieve the product from the bear enclosure as soon as the test is finished - additional product damage can occur after the test is complete, making it difficult to determine exactly what damage happened during the test and after the test was complete.
2. Complete the rest of the testing data form to document the amount of time until breach (if applicable), any damage to the product, the status of latch functioning, and the test result.
3. Photograph the product to document its condition after the test. Make sure to photograph all damage (Fig. 5), each side of the product, the top and the bottom and the latching mechanism. Take a short video of the product if it does not show much damage but is rendered non-functional (i.e., does not open, close or secure) properly after the test.



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Figure 5. Photos illustrating damage to products that render them non-functional.

Identifying and Preventing Captive Bear Testing Fatigue

There is another situation that could result in a completed test. Test bears can exhibit “testing fatigue” which means the bears show little or no interest in the test product. Some bears never exhibit testing fatigue and others seem to get it rather easily. There are things that can help prevent testing fatigue and there are specific procedures for completing product tests when testing fatigue occurs.

Testing fatigue can make it difficult or impossible to get the 60 minutes of bear contact time needed to complete a product test. This phenomenon can occur when the test bears fail to breach products and therefore fail to receive food rewards from too many test products.

Allowing the bears to breach products that have already been tested, or from products that are not bear-resistant (i.e., a regular household garbage can or a cooler without locks, etc.), and allowing them to receive food rewards from those products will help keep the bears’ interest.

Testing too many products in a short period of time can also cause bears to lose interest. Giving the bears a break between testing days can help prevent burn-out. Rotating the type of products tested in consecutive testing sessions (when possible) also helps keep the bears “fresh” and engaged.

NOTE: A testing session can be terminated at the discretion of the testing personnel or facility staff if the bears exhibit too much testing fatigue or if product submitters do not treat testing personnel in a professional and courteous manner.



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If a captive bear test cannot be completed due to bear testing fatigue, WMI will complete the test by doing a technical evaluation. The SEAFWA Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Protocol allows for evaluation of products via a tiered approach utilizing a combination of bear contact time and testing personnel expertise. The process is described in the section below.

Heavy-weight metal products such as garbage dumpsters, food storage lockers, trash can enclosures, some wildlife feeders, and products not receiving adequate contact time under Stage 1 will be evaluated via a tiered approach. The tiers are described as three stages, each of which is explained below.

Stage 1. A live bear test consisting of a full 60 minutes of bear contact time.

Stage 2. A combination of a live bear test with up to 60 minutes of bear contact time and a technical evaluation (explained below).

Stage 3. A technical evaluation only. If testing personnel are unable to achieve any bear contact time with the product or it is determined that no captive facility is able to test the product, the test can be completed as a technical evaluation.

Products for which a captive bear test cannot be completed will be evaluated using Stage 2 or Stage 3. Testing personnel should contact the Testing Program Coordinator to provide information about accumulated bear contact time, if any, and other information relative to the product test. WMI will complete the test via a technical evaluation.

Determining Captive Bear Test Results

To determine the test result, measure any gaps or holes in the product (Fig. 6).



Figure 6. Measuring the gap between the lid and cart body that was created by the bears.



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A product will be considered to have failed if it is rendered non-functional:

- Lid no longer closes or no longer latches,
- Doors no longer close or latch,
- Bears received food reward from inside of the product via a hole or gap larger than the ones allowed, or
- Hinges, seams, lids or doors are opened, torn, bent or broken at any time during the test.

For garbage containment products, gaps, tears or holes anywhere in the product of one inch or less are allowable. For game feeders, food storage containers, and all other products, gaps, tears or holes of ¼ inch or less are allowable.

Documenting Captive Bear Test Results

All product photos and testing video footage should be uploaded to a Dropbox account provided by WMI. The Testing Program Coordinator will send you a link to a Dropbox folder named **WMI-Bear Testing**. In that folder you will find a folder for your facility. That is where you can put all of the data from each test that you conduct.

Please upload the files according to the following instructions:

- Name a folder with the appropriate year that the test took place (eg., a folder named “2021” has already been created for you (Fig. 7).
- Create a new folder within the Year folder with the name of the company supplying the product for testing (eg., Toter).
- Create a new folder within the Company folder with the name of the product that is being tested (e.g., Bear Tight 95-gal cart #BT95).
- Create a new folder within the Product folder using the test date for the folder name (e.g., 04-12-21).
- Scan and save all data sheets to the Year/Company/Product/Date series of folders you created for this test.
- Save all photos and videos to the Year/Company/Product/Date series of folders you created for this test.
- Download and save the “before” and “after” photos of the product and the test data sheet to the SD card that was used in the camcorder to record the video footage of the product test.
- Mail the SD card to the WMI Testing Program Administrator (Appendix A) for archiving and reporting of test results to product supplier.



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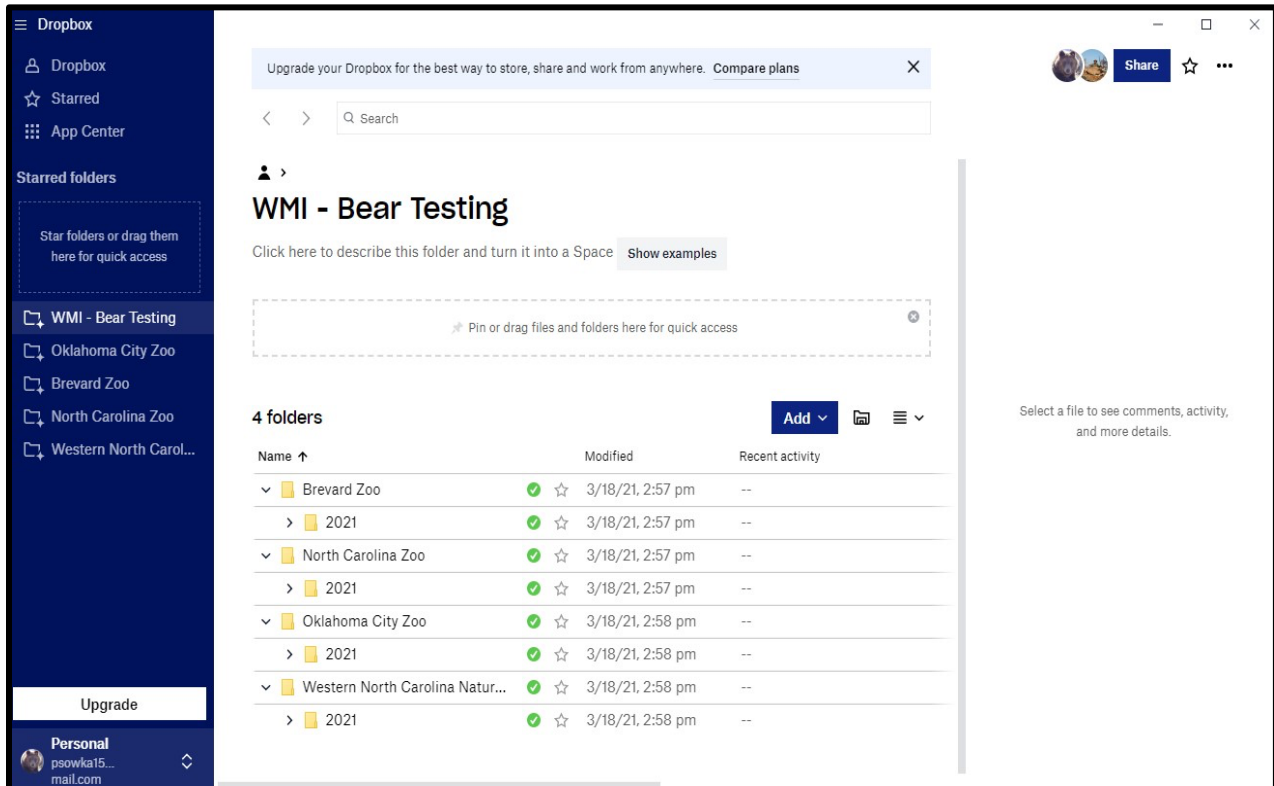


Figure 7. Screenshot of Dropbox data folders.

Reporting of Captive Bear Testing Results

A determination of whether or not a product passes the captive bear test will be made by the testing coordinator after testing results have been reviewed. This determination is final.

Passing the SEAFWA black bear-resistant testing process applies only to the specific product as evaluated. If a product's design and/or specifications change, such as by altering materials, dimensions, hinges, latches, or other features of the container, the product will likely require retesting. Contact the bear-resistant product approver for questions regarding modified products (please see end of this document for contact information).



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Upon completion of testing:

- Testing personnel will notify product submitters that testing is complete and will advise whether the product(s) has/have passed or failed testing (i.e., met or did not meet SEAFWA requirements for bear-resistant products). This determination is final.
- Testing Coordinator will review testing footage and documentation and will consider the product for SEAFWA approval.
- Manufacturers/vendors with products that are approved by SEAFWA will receive a letter confirming the product(s) approved status and assigning a unique SEAFWA approval number. This number applies only to the specific product model(s) that is approved.
- The letter from SEAFWA will also provide instructions for proper display of the assigned number(s) on the corresponding product(s) and how to include a program logo image that can be utilized for display. This image will show that the product passed the SEAFWA Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program.
- The SEAFWA number must be visibly displayed on approved SEAFWA products. The number may be etched, molded, stamped, or otherwise embossed, stickered or labeled onto the product.

IMPORTANT: The official list of products that have been passed by SEAFWA will appear on the WMI website at <https://wildlifemanagement.institute>. If a specific product does not appear on this list, it is not considered by SEAFWA to be a bear-resistant product.



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Testing Procedures for Toxicant Delivery Devices

Conducting the Toxicant Delivery Device (TDD) Test

1. TDD testing runs from May 15th through November 15th and is conducted in a wild setting where sufficient numbers of bears and feral hogs are present.
2. Prior to testing, the product manufacturer must provide WMI with a product submission form along with all background information, technical data, and close-up photographs of the product showing all major surfaces.
3. The manufacturer may indicate their preferred testing date(s). However, WMI will determine and provide to the manufacturer the optimal testing dates and location, depending on animal activity, staff availability, etc. WMI will also provide the manufacturer with a secure shipping address for products and bait they wish to ship in preparation for testing.
4. Local wildlife agency staff will be responsible for ensuring that products shipped by the manufacturer are securely stored in an appropriate facility (most often a WMA, regional, or field office).
5. In addition to the product to be tested, the manufacturer is responsible for providing all equipment, supplies, baits, and any other materials necessary to bring the product to operational status in the field.
6. Manufacturers are responsible for having personnel (technician) in proximity to the site for the four-week testing period. The technician will be responsible for product setup, bait loading and reloading, and product removal upon test completion. Once the test period is initiated, the manufacturer's technician will be responsible for replenishing baits at the direction of WMI.
7. Local wildlife agency staff will be responsible for installing and activating the monitoring equipment, providing routine maintenance to that equipment during the testing phase, and removing and securing monitoring equipment upon conclusion of the test.
8. Local wildlife agency staff will maintain and securely store monitoring equipment when not in use. Agency staff will be responsible for directing manufacturer's technician to the test site and approving that final clean-up after the test meets the agency's or landowners expectations. Agency staff will NOT be responsible for any part of the setup, testing, or evaluation of the products being tested.



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9. On the starting date of the test, product technician will accompany WMI staff or local wildlife agency staff to the testing site to setup and load the product with bait. State agency and WMI staff will NOT be responsible for set-up, bait loading, refilling, maintenance, tear-down, and product removal.
10. The TDD should be setup according to the manufacturer's specifications. If the TDD is dedicated to delivering a specific toxicant, it shall be setup and utilized per label directions of the toxicant as registered with the U.S. EPA. Baits used for product testing should be placebo baits (non-toxic) that are substantially similar in size, weight, and conformation to the toxicant the TDD is designed to deliver. Other attractants (grains, scents, etc.) may also be used as an attractant in addition to the placebo baits.
11. TDD products that require electricity or battery power must be tested without a power source.
12. Due to the nature of wild bears and feral swine, the product is required to remain at the testing site for the entire 4-week testing period unless the product fails prematurely, or the manufacturer chooses to terminate the test and withdraw the product from testing.
13. The testing period must include a minimum of six separate attempts by bears to access the baits contained within the TDD. At least three attempts by bears should occur after feral hogs have accessed baits from the TDD five or more times.
14. No maintenance will be allowed on the product during the testing period. Tampering or interfering with the monitoring equipment by the technician in any way will result in an immediate failure of the test.

Completing the Toxicant Delivery Device Test

1. The manufacturer's technician shall remove the tested product immediately upon either completion of the test, or in the case of product failure. Manufacturer's wishing to donate tested products to the state wildlife agency should coordinate that transfer through WMI.
2. The manufacturer's technician shall be responsible for cleanup of the testing site to a level that meets the approval of the local wildlife staff and/or landowner.
3. Local wildlife agency staff will remove monitoring equipment, ensure that it is stored properly.
4. Agency staff may also make and transmit notes or photographs of damage to the tested product at their own discretion.



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Documenting and Reporting Toxicant Delivery Device Results

1. All TDD tests are scored on a Pass/Fail basis. A product will be considered to have failed if any of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The product is rendered non-functional during the test,
 - b. A bear accesses the bait contained within the TDD,
 - c. A bear causes spillage of baits from TDD, or
 - d. Baits within the TDD become available to bears after wild hog contacts.
2. Spillage resulting from TDD use by animals other than bears, which then becomes unsecured and available to bears may not result in a test failure. This pass/fail determination for bait spillage caused by animals other than bears is at the sole discretion of WMI and the Testing Program Coordinator.
3. Due to potential exposure to spillage of toxicants, a successful test of a TDD does not constitute an endorsement by WMI, SEAFWA, the Testing Program Coordinator, or any state or federal fish and wildlife agency for the use of toxicants or any delivery system for toxicants to reduce or eradicate feral hogs.
4. Upon completion of the test, local wildlife agency staff will transmit via Dropbox to WMI (The Testing Program Coordinator will send you a link to a WMI-Bear Testing Folder), the testing videos and still photos from the monitoring equipment as well as any notes or photographs of product damage, bait spillage, etc. they wish to share.
5. A determination of whether or not a product passes the TDD test is at the sole discretion of WMI and the Testing Program Coordinator. WMI staff and the Testing Program Coordinator will independently review all testing results. This determination is final.
6. Passing the SEAFWA black bear-resistant testing process applies only to the specific product as evaluated. If a product's design and/or specifications change, such as by altering materials, dimensions, hinges, latches, or other features of the container, the product will likely require retesting. Contact WMI or the Testing Program Coordinator for questions regarding modified products (please see end of this document for contact information).
7. WMI or the Testing Program Coordinator will notify product submitters that testing is complete and will advise whether the product(s) has/have passed or failed testing (i.e., met or did not meet SEAFWA requirements for bear-resistant products). This determination is final.
8. Manufacturers/vendors with products that are approved by SEAFWA will receive a letter confirming the product(s) approved status and assigning a unique SEAFWA approval number. This number applies only to the specific product model(s) that is approved.



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9. The letter from SEAFWA will also provide instructions for proper display of the assigned number(s) on the corresponding product(s) and how to include a program logo image that can be utilized for display. This image will show that the product passed the SEAFWA Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program.
10. The SEAFWA number must be visibly displayed on approved SEAFWA products. The number may be etched, molded, stamped, or otherwise embossed, stickered or labeled onto the product.



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Other Noteworthy items

Manufacturers/vendors wishing to obtain an SD card of testing video **must** indicate their preference on the Product Submission Form. There will be an additional and separate fee charged for copies of video footage. Video footage is not edited. Requests for testing videos made after the testing process has been completed will not be honored.

Captive bear testing of products will be conducted between April 1st and November 31st. The testing facility may decline products during that time period due to circumstances that would adversely affect product testing (e.g., change in captive bear behavior, inclement weather) or due to a high volume of products submitted during the season.

Bear-resistant products submitted for testing become the property of the designated testing facility if appropriate arrangements for disposition have not been made within 60 days after product testing.



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Appendix A - Contacts

Captive Bear Testing Contact:

Patti Sowka
P.O. Box 922
Pauls Valley, OK 73075
(406) 544-5307
bear-resistant@wildlifemgt.org

Field Testing Contact:

Jonathan Gassett
226 Victoria Way
Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 330-9025
jgassett@wildlifemgt.org



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Appendix B - Testing Forms

Bear Resistant Product Testing Form

Test Date:			
Company Name:		Company Contact:	
Address:		Website:	
City:		State:	Zip:
Daytime Phone:	Evening Phone:	Fax:	E-mail:
Product Name:		Product Model:	
Product Re-test: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no			
Product Type			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Backpacking Canisters/Small Storage Drums	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dumpsters/Garbage Enclosures/Food Lockers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coolers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Feeders
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential Garbage Carts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toxicant Delivery Devices
<input type="checkbox"/>	Panniers & Dry Boxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Products
Construction Material:			
Visual Inspection Passed: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no			
Comments:			
Pictures Before Test:			
Pictures After Test:			
Video:			
Testing Conditions			
Bear(s) Used for Testing:			
Bait Used for Testing:			
Weather Conditions Temp, Wind, Sky Condition, Precip.):			
Container Breached:		<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	
Minutes until Breach Occurred:			
Latch Works:		<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	
Damage Comments:			



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Bear-Resistant Product Testing Form

Product and Testing Materials Disposition	
Customer wants SD Card Copy:	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Customer wants Regular Shipping:	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Customer wants Express Shipping:	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Date SD Card Copy Shipped:	
Manufacturer Keeps Product:	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Testing Facility Keeps Product:	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Date Product Returned:	
Customer FedEx Account Number:	

TEST RESULT: ☐ **PASS** ☐ **FAIL**



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Appendix C - Possible Food Items

Foods that Make Noise

- Section of Animal Bone
- Dog Kibble
- Fruit (Grapes, Peaches, Cherries, Watermelons, Apples, etc.)
- Vegetables (Avocados, Broccoli, Crowns, Potatoes, etc.)
- Whole Fish
- Meat Chunks

Foods to Apply to Hinges, Latches, & Seams

- Jams or Jellies
- Marshmallow Fluff
- Chocolate Sauce
- Marinades
- Sweet and Sour Sauce
- Applesauce
- Sardines/Anchovies
- Peanut Butter
- Honey

Scent Attractants

- Trapping Lures
- Perfumes
- Coffee Grounds



Black Bear-Resistant Product Testing Program

Appendix D - References

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. 2020. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program Testing Protocol For the 2020 Testing Season. 19 pp.

USDA Forest Service. 1989. Bear Resistant Containers – Minimum Design and Structural Standards; Inspection and Testing Methodology. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. 35 pp.