



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 22/25

Changes to the List of Approved Disinfectants

Date issued: 06 June 2025

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) and, where appropriate, Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs), of relevant changes to the list of approved disinfectants.

Background

2. A Defra approved disinfectant scheme (administered by APHA on behalf of all the GB administrations) operates to assess and record those disinfectants that have met certain criteria resulting in demonstrated efficacy in specific circumstances. Disinfectants approved under this scheme appear on the [approved disinfectant list](#) under different notifiable disease and general orders.
3. APHA operates a robust check test programme of all disinfectants that appear on the approved disinfectant list to ensure continuing efficacy. A disinfectant that does not pass a check test for a specific order will be suspended from the approved disinfectant list for that order. Disinfectant approval may also be suspended for other reasons.
4. When an approval is suspended, use of the suspended product in statutory disease control situations for the relevant order must cease, and an alternative approved disinfectant under the relevant order should be selected for use from the approved disinfectant list.
5. Notice of changes are published on the [approved disinfectants list](#) in the public domain but this briefing note is to bring significant changes to the attention of OVs and ATTs who are unlikely to be looking at the approved list on a daily basis.

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What's changing?

6. On Monday 2 June 2025, a disinfectant was suspended from the approved disinfectant list:
 - Virkon S under the General Orders in England, Scotland and Wales
7. The approval for Virkon S is therefore no longer valid and this disinfectant must not be used for any statutory control purposes under the General Orders.
8. Until further notice, Virkon S can be used for other orders for which it is still approved including the Diseases of Poultry Orders.

Action

9. OVs and ATTs are advised to check the [approved disinfectants list](#) to inform their choice of disinfectant, ensuring that it is approved for use under the relevant Order(s) and that it is being used at the appropriate dilution rate for the relevant Order(s).
10. OVs and ATTs are requested to cascade the content of this Briefing Note to their customers and other interested parties.
11. Notifications are only sent regarding disinfectants commonly used in carrying out OV and ATT duties. It remains the responsibility of OVs and ATTs to ensure that, at all times, the disinfectant they are using is approved for the purpose for which they are using it.

Further Information

12. Any future changes to the status of the above disinfectant will be updated on the [approved disinfectants list](#).
13. The [approved disinfectants list](#) operates in real-time, meaning that updates can and do occur at any time. To confirm the approval status of a disinfectant the [approved disinfectants list](#) should be the first point of reference.
14. Information on approved disinfectants is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it>
15. Specific queries regarding approved disinfectants, the disinfectant approval process and the list of approved disinfectants should be directed to disinfectant@apha.gov.uk

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16. Other disease specific or general queries should be directed to the relevant contact point in [APHA](#).

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