



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 06/24

# Changes to the List of Approved Disinfectants

Date issued: 22 February 2024

### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OV) in Great Britain (GB) and Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATT) in England and Wales of relevant changes to the list of approved disinfectants under the Tuberculosis, Diseases of Poultry and General Orders in England, Scotland and Wales.

### Background

2. A Government approved disinfectant is a disinfectant that has met certain criteria resulting in demonstrated efficacy in specific circumstances under a scheme administered by APHA on behalf of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government. This scheme is commonly referred to as the DEFRA disinfectant approval scheme.
3. Approved disinfectants appear under specific disease orders and General Orders (the latter covers all notifiable disease not covered by the disease-specific orders) in the [approved disinfectants list](#).
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 from the approved disinfectant list and used as an alternative.
5. APHA perform random check tests on disinfectants that feature on the approved disinfectant list to confirm the criteria for each specific order continue to be met. A disinfectant that does not pass a random check for a specific order will be suspended from the approved disinfectant list for that order.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

6. A change in product formulation or a non-payment of administrative fees could also lead to a disinfectant having approval suspended for a specific order.
7. The APHA Disinfectants Approval Team can only provide details of why a product has been suspended to the manufacturer. No discussions will be held with any other party.

## What's changing?

8. On Wednesday 7 February Virkon LSP, was suspended from the approved disinfectant list for General Orders.
9. On Friday 16 February FAM 30 and Novagen F.P. were suspended from the approved disinfectant list for the Tuberculosis Order:
10. On Tuesday 20 February FAM 30 and Virkon LSP, were suspended from the approved disinfectant list for the Diseases of Poultry Order.
11. On Wednesday 21 February Virkon LSP, was suspended from the approved disinfectant list for the Tuberculosis Order.
12. Whilst suspended these disinfectants are no longer approved for the specific order and must not be used for statutory control purposes relevant to that specific order.

## Action

13. OVs and ATTs are advised to check the [approved disinfectants list](#) to inform their choice of disinfectant to ensure it is compliant with its approval and that they are using it at the appropriate dilution for the specific order that applies.

## Further Information

14. Any changes to the current status of FAM 30, Novagen F.P. and Virkon LSP will be updated on the approved disinfectants list in due course.
15. Please continue to frequently monitor the [approved disinfectants list](#) for updates.
16. Information on approved disinfectants in GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it>
17. Specific queries regarding the disinfectant approval process and the list of approved disinfectants should be directed to [disinfectant@apha.gov.uk](mailto:disinfectant@apha.gov.uk). This mailbox cannot answer queries on selection of specific disinfectant brands or on the application of the disinfectants in the field.

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

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