

What is Virkon® Aquatic?

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Virkon® Aquatic is a specially formulated highly virucidal disinfectant for use in the Aquatic Sector. It was developed jointly by Antec Ltd and Bradan Limited specifically for use in veterinary emergencies such as outbreaks of the notifiable virus diseases ISA or VHS in aquaculture, but its efficacy and safety in use is such that it has now become the preferred biosecurity disinfectant by not only major farming companies but also authorities such as the Environment Agency and various river authorities where it is used for transportation disinfection and also for emergency disinfection eg ref Avian Influenza .

Virkon® Aquatic is based on the original patented formulation of T.R.Auchencloss, the father of modern disinfection science. It was perfected by Virkon in 1972, using the Nobel Prize winning Haber Willstatter reaction. 'Virkon S' the animal formulation is still the most widely tested and approved disinfectant for animal and human virus control in the world, but the manufacturers caution that they do not support or approve the use of 'Virkon S' in the aquatic environment because of tainting and toxicity considerations, where only Virkon ® Aquatic should be used.

Virkon® Aquatic is a complex of oxyzones, potassium monopersulphonate, salts of fruit acids such as malic and fumaric acid and sodium chloride with a limited amount of a special detergent which is necessary to deal with enveloped viruses such as infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISA) and koi herpes virus (KHV). It is important to note that many disinfectants have high levels of detergent and thus are of great environmental risk and very toxic to all aquatic life.

Virkon® Aquatic is recognised by the UK Government and certifying authorities as 'organic' for use in organic certified food production, and is considered sufficiently safe for humans that no maximum exposure level (MEL) is defined under Health and Safety legislation. Its use for sanitizing water in the presence of fish is not considered a 'treatment' under the UK medicines legislation and it can be disposed of in the natural environment with minimal safety requirements.