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The complete biosecurity solution

Using Virkon® Aquatic Effectively

Introduction

There is a perception in some quarters that Virkon® Aquatic is both difficult to use and expensive. The purpose of this paper is to dispel these myths.

How difficult is Virkon® Aquatic to use?

Most disinfectants are packaged as liquids. In Aquaculture, there are two notable exceptions. Both Virkon STM for Aquaculture and Halamid are packaged in powder form. Thus they are both certainly different to use compared to iodophors and hypochlorite but no more difficult.

How do I know I am using the correct concentration of Virkon® Aquatic ?

The Antec Biosecurity Programme for Aquaculture provides information on the concentrations of Virkon® Aquatic required to accomplish various tasks. It also provides a guide to application rates per square metre. Virkon® Aquatic can be measured very accurately into a container of known volume using the measuring cup provided.

How do I monitor the usage of Virkon® Aquatic on my sites?

Using the measuring cup in conjunction with the Antec Biosecurity Programme for Aquaculture, the operator has complete control over the use of the product and consequently its cost. In addition, a simple dip strip test can be used to monitor the concentration of the Virkon® Aquatic solution.

Why should I change from using an iodophor to Virkon® Aquatic when the former is considerably cheaper?

Firstly, out of all the disinfectants that are available, iodophors have consistently been shown to be the least effective in a fish farming context. In addition, there are environmental

and Health and Safety issues with the use of iodophors. A wise man once said that the most expensive disinfectant is the one that doesn't work. This is worth considering when making your mind up if you should change.

Secondly, using Virkon® Aquatic and the Antec Biosecurity Programme for Aquaculture it is possible to predict the cost of biosecurity for various processes to a fairly accurate degree. Contrast this with the traditional way that iodophors are used. Iodophors have been the standard disinfectant on fish farms for decades. The unit cost is generally fairly low (as befits a poorly performing product). However, there is generally little or no control exercised over how they are used in (for example) footbaths. Typically iodophors are used at strengths well in excess of manufacturers' recommendations incurring high additional costs for no additional benefit. In other words money down the drain!