

Organic Status of Virkon® Aquatic

The Advisory Committee on Organic Standards (ACOS) have recommended to Defra that proprietary cleaning products containing a combination of chemicals that combine to produce a chemical analogous to those allowed in Annex II E of the Compendium of UK Organic Standards (Defra July 2005) are allowed for use in organic production. This is of particular relevance to the cleaning and disinfection of livestock buildings and installations (e.g. equipment and utensils) covered by that annex.

The query was raised in reference to a particular proprietary product (Virkon) widely used in the livestock industry. This product has been studied by the ACOS Technical Committee and further considered by ACOS. The Committees noted that although the ingredients contained in the product were not those shown in Annex II E the active ingredient obtained by activation is analogous to an allowed ingredient and so is allowed for use.

Defra have accepted this recommendation, and this information notice is to confirm that Virkon and similar proprietary products producing active ingredients allowed under Annex II E are allowed for use in organic livestock buildings and installations (e.g. equipment and utensils).

ACOS noted that additional ingredients such as carriers, colour or perfumes are limited by Regulation (EEC)2092/91, however, they request that manufacturers of proprietary formulations for organic farmers keep such additional ingredients to a minimum. A guidance note to this effect will be included in future versions of the Compendium.