

List of Disinfectants Approved by the Association of Applied Hygiene (VAH)



Basis for selection of chemical disinfection processes for routine disinfection

Notification by the VAH Disinfectants Commission (from *HygMed* 2016; 41(9): 232–233.)

The completely revised and updated edition of the List of Disinfectants approved by the Association of Applied Hygiene (VAH) was published with certification date 1 June 2016.

This list features the processes certified by the VAH for prophylactic disinfection and hygienic handwashing which were tested and deemed effective in line with the current VAH certification requirements and methods. These methods take account of the pertinent valid EN standards [1, 2]. Disinfection processes certified by the VAH have been tested for efficacy by independent experts and thus meet the current recommendations of the Commission for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention at the Robert Koch Institute (KRINKO), German Association of Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF) and leading specialist societies with regard to quality assurance in prophylactic disinfection.

The VAH List of Disinfectants has a tabular section featuring products with the manufacturer's name, active substance basis as well as details of the exposure time and dosage.

All certified processes included in the VAH List of Disinfectants are effective against bacteria as well as yeasts. The information on the exposure time and concentration for these spectrums of action should be viewed as minimum requirements for disinfection practices.

Furthermore, additional spectrums of action are certified and listed if requested by the manufacturer. These additional spectrums of action are as follows: mycobactericidal, tuberculocidal, fungicidal activity (i.e. effective against moulds such as e.g. *Aspergillus* and its spores) as well as limited virucidal activity and complete virucidal activity (effective against enveloped and non-enveloped viruses). To date,

efficacy against bacterial spores (e.g. of *Clostridium difficile*) has not been certified. The VAH will soon issue notifications to that effect.

The tabular section has the following headings:

- Hygienic handwashing (Note: Since the requirements for reduction of the test organisms for these processes are lower, these products are not a substitute for hand disinfection).
- Hygienic and surgical hand disinfection
- Skin antiseptics
- Surface disinfection
 - Surface disinfection for application as spray disinfection or wipe disinfection
 - Surface disinfection **with wipe systems**. This new heading features processes that underwent VAH practical testing with a wipe specified by the manufacturer.
- Instrument disinfection
- Laundry disinfection.

A layout based on a detailed list of manufacturers and/or distributors, with contact addresses, and a complete list of certified products classified under headings for each firm provides for quick orientation and market overview.

In addition to the actual list section, the brochure contains supplementary information which has also been updated and revised. This includes:

- Brief information on the test methodology for each field of application and all spectrums of action,

- User instructions for each application area,
- Information on the active substances,
- A tabular overview of the designations used in the list for the active substance basis and the individual substances to be thus classified,
- An overview of the different pathogen spectrums covered by the following spectrums of action: bactericidal, leuurocidal, tuberculocidal, mycobactericidal, fungicidal and (limited) virucidal.
- An overview of the legal regulations in Germany governing prophylactic disinfection.

With its List of Disinfectants, the VAH Disinfectants Commission is making available to all users and disinfectant purchasers a tool for selection of disinfectant products and processes with demonstrated efficacy based on objective quality criteria. ■

References

1. Desinfektionsmittel-Kommission im VAH (Hrsg.). Anforderungen und Methoden zur VAH-Zertifizierung chemischer Desinfektionsverfahren. Stand 2. April 2015. Wiesbaden: mhp-Verlag.
2. Desinfektionsmittel-Kommission im VAH (Hrsg.). Zur Äquivalenz der Desinfektionsmittel-Testung gemäß VAH-Methoden und der Testung gemäß den aktuellen europäischen Normen. *HygMed* 2016; 41 (3): 83–84.
3. Desinfektionsmittel-Kommission im VAH (Hrsg.). Leistung von Flächendesinfektionsmitteln. *HygMed* 2016; 41 (6): 169–170.

The VAH List of Disinfectants can be obtained from the publisher mhp-Verlag.

Other publications by the VAH:
www.vah-online.de