

Communication by the VAH Disinfectants Commission

Update of Requirements for VAH-Certification and Listing of Virucidal Claims Including the New Spectrum 'Virucidal Activity PLUS' for Surface Disinfectants



As of 1 September 2023

Introduction

As of 1 September 2023, the VAH Working Group on Test Method Development for the Certification of Virucidal Efficacy updated the requirements for VAH-certification of virucidal disinfectants in coordination with the VAH Disinfectants Commission [1]. This update became necessary primarily due to the introduction of the 'virucidal PLUS' activity spectrum and the associated modifications in the requirements for the claim of 'virucidal' surface disinfectants, which results in a harmonisation for the claim 'virucidal' activity spectrum as specified in the European standards [2].

In addition, the requirements for VAH-certification have been described in more detail and more precisely, in order to support manufacturers, laboratories and assessors in the testing and evaluation of the various virucidal claims.

The updated and clarified VAH requirements include the following points:

- A reference and a cytotoxicity test must always be carried out for each test run in addition to the specified controls.
- If the test solution is detoxified with columns, the same test run must also be carried out in parallel without columns.
- Description of the test conditions for the quantitative suspension test as well as for the simulated-use test for the activity spectrums virucidal and virucidal PLUS for surface disinfectants.

Furthermore, the overview table on virucidal activity spectrums, test viruses and the pathogens covered by the respective spectrums has been revised. It should be noted that according to current knowledge, for example, hepatitis A virus as well as Parvoviridae are not reliably covered by the 'virucidal' spectrum of activity.

Since 1 September 2023 it is possible to apply for certification of the virucidal PLUS spectrum of activity for surface disinfectants. Corresponding application forms are available for download on the VAH website. Certificates issued according to the requirements of 1 November 2021 for virucidal claims remain valid for three years. However, since 1 September 2023 surface disinfectants in the VAH Disinfectants List which had been certified according to the previously higher VAH-requirements for the claim 'virucidal', are now certified and listed for both, the 'virucidal PLUS' activity spectrum as well as the 'virucidal' activity spectrum.

References

1. Desinfektionsmittel-Kommission im VAH (Hrsg.). Anforderungen und Methoden zur VAH-Zertifizierung. Kapitel 4 und Anhang V, Viruswirksamkeit. Stand: 1. September 2023. Laufend aktualisierte Online-Publikation. Abrufbar über <https://vah-online.de/de/fuer-laboratorien> (Authorized English translation available on VAH website)
2. Desinfektionsmittel-Kommission im VAH, Kommission Virusdesinfektion von DVV und GfV. Harmonisierung der Anforderungen an die viruzide Wirksamkeit von chemischen Flächendesinfektionsverfahren im praxisnahen Test. HygMed 2023;48(4):69-72. (Authorized English translation available on VAH website)

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Citation note: VAH Disinfectants Commission (eds.). Update of Requirements for VAH-Certification and Listing of Virucidal Claims Including the New Spectrum 'Virucidal Activity PLUS' for Surface Disinfectants. As of 1 September 2023.

This is an authorized English translation of the original German publication: Desinfektionsmittel-Kommission im VAH. Neuer Wirkbereich "viruzid PLUS" für die Flächendesinfektion und Aktualisierung der Anforderungen für die Zertifizierung von viruswirksamen Desinfektionsmitteln in der VAH-Liste. Stand 1. September 2023. HygMed 2023;48(9):225-226. Accessed 14 December 2023 from: https://vah-online.de/files/download/vah-mitteilungen/VAH_viruzidPLUS_Anforderungen_HM_9_23.pdf