

Application of Disinfectants by Fogging

As proprietors and facilities managers made and implemented plans to re-open commercial and business premises, Evans Vanodine received many enquiries regarding the application of its range of disinfectant products via fogging systems.

Application of a disinfectant by any means, without a prior cleaning stage, is most likely to be ineffective and is not recommended.

There is insufficient industry experience of substitution of established methods of application of disinfectant, by fogging or electrostatic spraying within a conventional cleaning and disinfection programme, to have confidence that such methods will be effective.

The volume of disinfectant applied using such techniques is markedly lower and, in contrast to standard application methods, no correlation between performance in real hygiene management situations and in suspension tests, such as EN 14476 or EN 1276, has been established.

There is no EN test method available specific to application of disinfectants using hand-held fogging machines or electrostatic sprayers that provides evidence of their effectiveness in practice.

In those industries where fogging is established (e.g. thermal foggers used for animal husbandry, cold fogging used in food manufacturing industry, and as an element of decontamination procedures in hospital rooms/care homes) it is carried out as an additional hygiene step, following properly conceived and executed cleaning and disinfection.

Furthermore, such established uses are carried out in premises and on equipment designed to tolerate exposure to such practices, by operatives who have been trained, and are properly equipped, to carry out the operation safely and effectively.

This is not demonstrably the case for the premises into which it has been proposed that fogging should be introduced in the face of the current Coronavirus pandemic, where its potential for harm to personnel, equipment and furnishings has not been assessed and remains untested.

Evans Vanodine is unable to endorse the use of its products via fogging systems and will accept no liability for harm that results, should end users decide independently to use its products in that way.

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