

**To: Directors of Trading Standards (England)
Heads of Environmental Health Services (England)
Chief Port Health Officers (England)**

cc: LACORS, TSI, CIEH, APHA, APA

21 December 2007

Reference: **ENF/E/07/072**

XyRex – Fish Decontamination Products

Dear Colleagues

It has very recently been brought to our attention by the European Commission that 'XyRex' brand products¹ are being marketed and used in the UK to decontaminate fish and fishery products. Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs prohibits the use of any substance other than potable water, or when permitted, clean water, to decontaminate products of animal origin, unless approved by the European Commission.

This letter is being sent to enforcement authorities in England to inform you that these products have not been approved and may not lawfully be used for decontaminating fish and fishery products in the UK. We would therefore ask that you take steps to contact the relevant businesses in your area and advise them that any such use would be in breach of EC Regulation No. 853/2004, and consequently an offence under the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006, which make it an offence to contravene or fail to comply with the requirements of the relevant European legislation. Similar information is being circulated to enforcement authorities in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and to industry representative organisations.

We have written to XyRex Ltd requesting them to cease marketing the products as approved for use in the UK for decontaminating fish and fishery products and to remove from their web site a letter from the Food Standards Agency that may give the erroneous impression that their products are authorised for such use.

¹ www.xyrex.co.uk

Should you require further explanation on issues arising from this letter, please contact Paula Waldron regarding enforcement queries (Tel: 020 7276 8444; email: paula.waldron@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk); for policy queries please contact me or Tracy Boshier (Tel: 020 7276 8944; email: tracy.boshier@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Dr Kevin Hargin

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Primary Production Division