

To: Trade and Industry representatives (on attached list)

21 December 2007

Reference: FSH/0020

XyRex – Fish Decontamination Products

Dear Sir or Madam

It has been brought to our attention 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 trade and industry representatives 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 be grateful if you would inform your members as a matter of urgency 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 all local authorities in the UK asking them to contact relevant businesses in their area and advise them that these products may not lawfully be used for such decontamination purposes.

We have written to XyRex Ltd to point out that their products may not lawfully be marketed for use in the UK for decontaminating fish or fishery products, and

¹ www.xyrex.co.uk

requesting them to cease this activity. We have also asked them 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.

Should you require further explanation please do not hesitate to contact me or Tracy Boshier (Tel: 020 7276 8944; email: tracy.boshier@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Dr Kevin Hargin

Head, Fish and Shellfish Hygiene Branch
Primary Production Division

Copy list

The Association of Sea Fisheries Committees of England and Wales

Grimsby Fish Market

Chilled Food Association

The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers

National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

Prins & Dingemanse (Fruit de Mer Specialist)

British Frozen Food Federation

Billingsgate Market

British Trout Association

UK Association of Frozen Food Producers

Sea Fish Industry Authority

National Association of British Market Authorities

Shellfish Association of Great Britain

Scallop Association