



The truth about iodine

Iodine in aqueous or alcoholic solutions or solubilised with surfactants (iodophors) is used in a variety of applications to kill harmful micro-organisms.

They are used as skin disinfectants pre-operatively, with wound dressings, for teat dipping in dairy cows, sheep and goats and for surface disinfection in a number of industries.

Iodine is suitable for all of these applications because it is a broad spectrum biocide. Its efficacy has been demonstrated over 170 years of use. Iodine and iodophors are well established and accepted as having microbicidal activity.

There are a huge number of papers demonstrating the microbicidal activity of iodophors and extensive laboratory tests have been carried out in our UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) accredited laboratory to demonstrate the activity of specific products under varying conditions of temperature and contact times.

Recently we have become aware that false statements are being made about iodine in the farming press and these should not be allowed to go unanswered.

● Fact No. 1.

Iodine is fast acting. Evans Vanodine's iodophor teat dips have been tested using the European Standard (EN) 1656 with a 15 second contact time and shown to kill a range of mastitis causing bacteria. Published papers confirm the rapid and broad bactericidal activity of iodine.

● Fact No. 2.

Other chemicals claim to work instantly. It is not possible to back up this claim with actual data. Using the EN 1656 method 15 seconds is the shortest possible time to measure activity.

● Fact No. 3.

Iodine is effective at a range of pH's.

● Fact No. 4.

Iodine is considered medicinal by function by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

● Fact No. 5.

Iodine is readily available in 0.5% w/v teat dips. Tests in our laboratory indicate that the iodine in 5% dips is available within 15 seconds (the shortest possible time for measurement).

● Fact No. 6.

Iodine teat dips perform more effectively than chlorhexidine, alkyl benzene sulphonate and lactic acid teat

dips when tested using EN 1656. In practice iodine based teat dips are still the most commonly used teat dips in the world providing protection against mastitis causing bacteria.

● Fact No. 7.

Iodine is effective in the presence of organic matter. Iodophors are widely used as animal house disinfectants, they are tested and proved to be effective under high soiling conditions and at low temperatures. Iodophor teat dips are active in the presence of milk.

Regulations

Evans Vanodine International has expertise in the manufacture and testing of Iodine based products.

This has enabled the company to comply with veterinary medicines regulations for teat dips in the UK and Ireland and to support Iodine through the European Biocidal Products Regulations.

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations require that:

● Teat dips are manufactured according to Good Manufacturing Procedures (GMP).

GMP ensures that products are produced, packaged and labelled in a manner that assures the products are fit for use. It also details raw material quality, packaging, labels, manufacturing and packaging procedures, stability evaluations and record keeping.

● These regulations are intended to assure that products are consistent and comply with their specifications.

They are also intended as a safety measure so that if ever an issue requires attention, up to and including a product recall, the manufacturer can then locate products and take appropriate action.

The Biocidal Products Regulations require that

● The efficacy of the product is supported by test results based on International, European or National Standards.

● The toxicology of the product is assessed and risks to humans and the environment minimised.

● The quality of the product is assured by comprehensive quality control procedures.

Evans Vanodine's iodine based products meet all of the requirements of the regulations and continue to perform as excellent disinfectants as testified by satisfied customers