

21 December 2007

Reference: **ENF/NI/07/055**

To: District Council Chief EHOs

CC: Group Chief EHOs
NIFLG
CIEH NI Centre
NILGA
LACORS

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 Northern Ireland to inform you that this product has not been approved and may not therefore 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 Regulations (NI) 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 England, Scotland and Wales, 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 website 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 please do not hesitate to contact me or Debbie Sharpe (Tel: 02890 417703; email:debbie.sharpe@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten M. Dunbar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Kirsten Dunbar
Head of Primary Production, Feedingstuffs & Science