

## Fogging/Misting application of disinfectant products

DAFM wish to bring to your attention recently published guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of Covid-19 - May 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/cleaning-and-disinfection-of-environmental-surfaces-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

The document highlights some concerns surrounding the application of disinfectants by fogging/misting.

*“In indoor spaces, routine application of disinfectants to environmental surfaces by spraying or fogging (also known as fumigation or misting) is not recommended for COVID-19. One study has shown that spraying as a primary disinfection strategy is ineffective in removing contaminants outside of direct spray zones. Moreover, spraying disinfectants can result in risks to the eyes, respiratory or skin irritation and the resulting health effects. Spraying or fogging of certain chemicals, such as formaldehyde, chlorine-based agents or quaternary ammonium compounds, is not recommended due to adverse health effects on workers in facilities where these methods have been utilized.”*

The Department has to date not approved any biocidal products for use for the control of Covid-19 via fogging/misting/atomisation/aerosol devices.

In accordance with Regulation 9 of Statutory Instrument 427 of 2013, applicants must submit the following information for evaluation as part of their product application for products with an intended fogging/misting/atomisation use:

- Provide dermal, oral and inhalation limits for the active substance(s) and any substances of concern contained in the product.
- Provide a relevant risk assessment to address at a minimum, the following scenarios;
  - Professional user applying the product;
  - Professional user disposing of products or empties;
  - Professional user cleaning and maintaining the application system and
  - Bystanders entering treated areas.

Engineering controls or PPE could be used to mitigate some exposure and can be addressed in the risk assessment.