

## **NEWS RELEASE:**

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### **Accelerated hydrogen peroxide Receives Emergency Approval against Anthrax**

With recent events in North America, the EPA was searching for effective decontamination options for anthrax incidents. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) has a provision for emergency approvals of disinfecting products. Under Section 18 of FIFRA, EPA can exempt a State or Federal Agency from the provisions of FIFRA and thereby allow the sale, distribution, and use of an unregistered pesticide for a limited time if the Administrator determines that emergency conditions require such exemption. Before approving an emergency exemption request, EPA performs a multi-disciplinary risk assessment of the requested use, relying largely on data that have already been reviewed for the pesticide. If the emergency appears valid and the risks are acceptable, EPA approves the emergency exemption request. EPA will deny an exemption request if, among other things, the pesticide use may cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment, including human health.

Current options for such incidents are bleach, peroxyacetic acid and chlorine dioxide, among others. Practical issues with the use of these actives are, corrosivity, health and safety issues and requirements for ideal environmental conditions for use (specifically with chlorine dioxide). Virox Technologies, in partnership with JohnsonDiversey, presented the Environmental Protection Agency with an Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP) solution that demonstrated germicidal efficacy against the anthrax spore in a fast contact time of 15 min. The AHP solution provided to the EPA is the only option that is strictly Hydrogen Peroxide based. It is available in the USA under the brand STF. STF provides emergency response personnel with an effective decontamination option that delivers a realistic contact time with excellent material compatibility health, & safety and environmental profiles. Information on the use of STF are available on the EPA's biological threat web site

[http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/hydrogenperoxide\\_peroxyaceticacid\\_factsheet.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/hydrogenperoxide_peroxyaceticacid_factsheet.htm).