

## DISINFECTANTS FOR DECONTAMINATION OF FOOTWEAR TO PREVENT ENTRY OF SOILBORNE MICRO-ORGANISMS INTO NEW ZEALAND

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Footwear worn by overseas visitors or carried in luggage could bring unwanted micro-organisms into New Zealand. Current border biosecurity involves checks of footwear and treatment of contaminated shoes with the disinfectant dipotassium peroxodisulphate (Virkon®). A range of disinfectants was tested for activity against bacteria and fungi present in soil obtained from a boot worn in New Zealand. Solutions of 11 commercially available disinfectants were prepared as per the manufacturers' instructions. Soil was scraped from the boot, and 1 g added to 10 ml sterile water and mixed well with a vortex. An aliquot (1 ml) of the soil solution was added to each of 10 ml of disinfectant solutions, mixed well and stood for 5 min. The mixture (0.5 ml) was evenly spread over agar plates (malt extract agar for isolating fungi and agar amended with antibiotics for bacteria). All disinfectants tested significantly reduced the growth of bacteria and fungi compared with untreated controls. Sodium hypochlorite (2%) gave almost complete kill of bacteria. Four disinfectants (sodium hypochlorite, phenols (Prephen), hypobromous acid (Nylate) and calcium hypochlorite (Haz-Tab)) gave complete kill of fungi. The results suggest that sodium hypochlorite at 2% could be highly effective for decontamination of footwear.

## MAF EXOTIC PEST & DISEASE HOTLINE: AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN BIOSECURITY SURVEILLANCE

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As a result of current pest management practices, improved surveillance programmes and diagnostic technology, the scientific community and industry are usually the first to detect new to New Zealand organisms. Notification of suspect new pests or diseases to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) as soon as practicable is important as this increases the chance of early detection, containment and eradication of any organisms that may be of significance to our environment, economy, human health and cultural identity. In addition, under the Biosecurity Act 1993, there is a statutory obligation to report an organism not normally seen or otherwise detected in New Zealand to the Ministry. To simplify the process of notification, MAF operates a 'hotline' for reporting new exotic plant pests and diseases in New Zealand. By phoning 0800 80 99 66, the find will be reported to the appropriate team within MAF. This poster outlines a number of investigations where a new exotic plant pest or disease has been reported by industry and the scientific community to MAF Biosecurity, and aims to increase awareness around the importance of reporting such finds and the use of the Ministry's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline in reporting them.