

Latest Information in Respect to the Application of Fogging Techniques October 2020

This information is provided on behalf of A.S.P.E.C. (Association of Studios and Production Equipment Suppliers), as a result of the generous sharing of intelligence, gained by the hard work, application and diligence of one or more of the A.S.P.E.C. Member Companies.

Research continued, specifically in respect to the issue of fogging:

Contact with a Forensic Materials Scientist in the US, who kindly read through all the documents gathered and provided. The results of which, have been confirmed, in that the effects of fogging could lead Equipment Rental and Facility Companies into a real long-term nightmare.

The most up to date detail received is as follows:

Many conversations regarding fogging had taken place amongst the UK based Equipment Rental and Facility Companies, who would still be entitled to make decisions based on what is right for each of their businesses. However, those involved in the continuing effort in extracting the most up to date, relevant and pertinent information, felt this latest piece of intelligence worth sharing.

Details received below:

In summary:

1. The original assumptions were correct.
2. Hydrogen peroxide is highly corrosive.
3. Hydrogen peroxide can be toxic.
4. These sprayed/fogged solutions are 90+% water. Putting water on electronic equipment is highly discouraged. It will cause corrosion.
5. The deposit of silver, from the hydrogen peroxide, on electronic equipment will be catastrophic.

Here are the notes from an independent US based Forensic Materials Scientist review:

About the SANOSIL disinfectant: it has between 5-8% of hydrogen peroxide, 0.1% orthophosphoric acid, 0.01% silver, and the rest is WATER (at least 92%).

Water always promotes electrochemical corrosion. The higher the moisture in contact with metallic surfaces, the higher the possibility of corrosion.

EPA report (EPA CIOS Report attached) indicates:

- a) Hydrogen peroxide does produce corrosion in electronic equipment (case, heat-sink, electronic cards, etc.) after several months of application (fogging) of the disinfectant.
- b) Hydrogen peroxide is more corrosive than ClO₂ disinfectant.

When electronic/electrical equipment is fogged with Sanosil, there is a good chance that WATER gets inside the electronics as well as on the metallic surfaces to generate corrosion. About the silver layer or silver that might be deposited on electronic cards, terminals, etc., it might lead to electrical failures or malfunctioning as consequence of non-designed electrical contacts between different electronic circuits (the deposited silver might lead to the physical and electrical contact between electronic circuits or “lines” that must be isolated from each other). The unfortunate characteristics of the deposited silver is that it will stick on the surface (of the electronic cards) and the only way to remove it is by mechanical cleaning (spray-and-wipe cleaning). Excerpt from the Sanosil FAQs:

- By a surface disinfection with Sanosil, silver remains as a slight residue, and sticks very hard on it. This residue can only be removed by mechanical cleaning. It is impossible that this silver is detached from the surface by itself as dust or vapor and float in the air. A cumulation of the silver strains by repeated spray-and-wipe applications is also not possible.

Therefore, I do not recommend the fogging nor the direct spray of electronic/electrical equipment, as cameras, for example, with Sanosil since that product (based on at least 92% of water and silver) might produce corrosion as well as electrical failures or malfunctioning of the equipment.

The external surfaces of the electronic/electrical equipment should be cleaning by using the wiping technique (clothe soaked with the disinfectant). If by any chance virus got inside the equipment, during its normal operation by a contaminated person, unless the equipment is open to get inside, the virus that might be “trapped” inside will not spread to any human being because the other persons could not touch the “contaminated inside-surfaces” and the virus by itself will die since it can survive only 3-4 hours on copper and aluminium, for example).

If an electronic/electrical equipment was fogged or sprayed using Sanotil or other disinfectants (most of them are based on water), my recommendation is to clean the inside, the electronics, by one of the many cleaning procedures applied by cleaning companies, to remove traces of disinfectant.