

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017 – Veterinary practitioner and stockfeed manufacturer changes



Responsible agricultural and veterinary chemical use is critical to protecting and enhancing consumer confidence and market access.

In Victoria, legislation is in place to balance access to agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals with rules that guide their safe and responsible use and manage the risks posed to users, consumers, animals, market access and our environment.

The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017 came into effect on 23 July, 2017. While there have been no major changes, the Regulations have been updated to ensure they remain the most effective means of regulating agvet chemical use in Victoria.

Labelling and advice notes for veterinary chemicals and medicated stockfeed

When selling a veterinary chemical product for the treatment of a stock animal, specified information must be included on labels attached to the veterinary chemical product container or provided as an advice note to the buyer.

In the following situations:

- A veterinary chemical product registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) that is sold for the treatment of a species of animal in accordance with the directions on the product label (on label use) must be sold with the approved APVMA label for that product.
- A veterinary chemical product sold in bulk quantities must be sold with an advice note containing the information outlined under 'Label and advice note contents'.
- Where a veterinary practitioner sells a veterinary chemical product for a use that is not in accordance with directions on the product label (off label use), they must supply a label or advice note containing information outlined under 'Label and advice note contents'.
- The veterinary practitioner determines that a complex dosage regime makes it necessary to provide separate written instructions the veterinary chemical product must be sold with an advice note containing the information outlined under 'Label and advice note contents'.

Label and advice note contents

A new requirement is the need to include the batch number and expiry date (if known) of a product on a label or advice note. This information contributes towards maintaining product traceability.

All labels and advice notes must include the following information.

Business name, address and telephone number of the veterinary practitioner

Date the product was sold

Species, breed, age and sex of the animal to be treated

Directions for treating the animal with the product

Withholding period for the species treated (if this does not apply, use the statement, 'Nil Withholding Requirement')

Batch number of the product and its expiry date (if known)

Product name (unless it is sold in a container bearing the manufacturer's label)

Name and concentration of the active constituent (if the veterinary chemical product is unregistered)

Labels must be securely attached to the container of the product.

If an advice note is provided, buyers must be supplied with it before or at the time of the initial treatment.

Withholding period requirements

Veterinary practitioners must ensure that the withholding period specified for a veterinary chemical product will guarantee that any stock or produce derived from stock treated with that product (e.g. meat, milk, wool) will not be contaminated with unacceptable chemical residues as a result of the treatment.

The withholding period set cannot be less than that specified by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Recording the sale or use of veterinary chemical product by a veterinary practitioner

A minor change has been made to allow another person to make records of veterinary chemical use on behalf of a veterinary practitioner (e.g. receptionist, veterinary nurse).

The following record keeping requirements apply to the sale or use of a veterinary chemical product by a veterinary practitioner for the treatment of a stock animal that:

- contains a Schedule 4 Poison substance
- is an unregistered veterinary chemical product
- is a registered veterinary chemical sold without an APVMA approved label
- is a registered veterinary chemical sold for a use not specified on the APVMA approved label, or
- has a withholding period.

A veterinary practitioner must, within 24 hours of selling or using a veterinary chemical product for the treatment of a stock animal, ensure an accurate written record to be made of the following details. These records must be kept for two years after the sale or use of the product.

Product name
Date the product was sold or used
Directions for use of the product
Name and address of the buyer
Quantity (amount) of the product sold or used
Species of animal treated or intended to be treated
Location of the animal treated or intended to be treated
The withholding period (if any) for the product



If the veterinary chemical product is unregistered, the following additional records are required.

Name of active constituent
Concentration in which the product was sold or used
Form in which the product was sold or used

Further Information

For more information about veterinary chemical use requirements in Victoria, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse

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