VETERINARY PRESCRIPTION FEED REQUIREMENTS

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency

A key part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) mandate is to ensure that livestock feed manufactured and sold in Canada or imported into Canada is safe, effective and labeled appropriately. The CFIA carries out this mandate under the authority of the *Feeds Act* and *Regulations* and *the Health of Animals Act* and *Regulations.* Safe and effective feed contributes to the production and maintenance of healthy livestock, and more importantly the safety of our food; simply put, “we eat what we feed”.

Ensuring the Safety of Livestock Feed in Canada

To verify that livestock feed is compliant with the *Feeds Act* and *Regulations* and *the Health of Animals Act* and *Regulations*, the CFIA:

- evaluates and approves single ingredient feeds for use in livestock feed
- establishes standards and policies for regulating feeds, including provisions for the exemption of feed from registration
- evaluates and registers specialty products of specific safety or efficacy concern
- monitors feed for the presence of residues of chemicals, such as drugs and pesticides, contamination by heavy metals, mycotoxins and salmonella, and verifies drug guarantees in feed
- investigates detections of feed-related contamination of meat, milk or eggs and producer complaints
- reviews labels of medicated feed for compliance so that all applicable cautions and warnings are provided for safe use, and
- inspects commercial feed mills and farms involved in the production of medicated feed.

Regulation of Medicated Feed in Canada

In Canada, the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Regulations* and the *Feeds Act* and *Regulations* regulate drugs in livestock feed. The addition of drugs to livestock feed **must** comply with both sets of legislation and regulations as follows:

- In keeping with the *Feeds Regulations*, all medicated livestock feed imported, manufactured or sold in Canada must meet standards set out in the CFIA's Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochures (CMIB) unless the feed is a veterinary prescription feed (a feed manufactured pursuant to a veterinary prescription). The CMIB is a listing of drug pre-mixes that have been assigned a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and which have been approved for use in livestock feed by Health Canada.
- A medicated feed is exempt from complying with the standards set out in the CMIB only if the medicated feed has been manufactured pursuant to a veterinary prescription and if, amongst other criteria, the source of the medicating ingredient prescribed and used in the medicated feed complies with the *Feeds Regulations* and conditions set out in section C.08.012 of the *Food and Drug Regulations*.

Regulation of Veterinary Prescription Feeds Manufactured in Canada

In keeping with paragraph C.08.012 (1) of the *Food and Drug Regulations*, a person may sell a medicated feed pursuant to a written prescription of a veterinary practitioner if:

- all drugs used in the medicated feed as medicating ingredients have been approved for sale by Health Canada and each drug has either:
  - a valid D.I.N., or
  - been permitted for sale as an Investigational New Drug (IND), an Emergency Drug Release (EDR) or an Experimental Studies Certificate (ESC)
- the medicated feed is for the treatment of animals under the direct care of a veterinary practitioner who signed the prescription.

Further, in accordance with Section 5.(2)(g) of the *Feeds Regulations*, veterinary prescription feeds may be exempt from registration if the following conditions are met:

I. the sale of such feed is authorized under section C.08.012 of the *Food and Drug Regulations* (noted above)

II. the amount of feed manufactured does not exceed the amount that would be normally consumed by the number of animals prescribed to receive the feed during the prescribed period of medication,

III. the veterinary prescription pursuant to which the feed is manufactured is signed by the veterinarian who issued it and the prescription contains the following information:
   (A) the date on which the prescription is written
   (B) the name and address of the person for whom the feed is to be manufactured and by whom it is intended to be used
   (C) the name and level of inclusion in the feed of the medicating ingredient prescribed by the veterinarian
   (D) the type and amount of feed to be manufactured
   (E) the number, kind, class and age or weight of the livestock intended to be fed the feed
   (F) special manufacturing instructions including necessary mill clean-up warnings, if any
   (G) feeding instructions or directions for use of the feed including the period of medication during which the feed is to be fed to the livestock, and
   (H) warning statements and caution statements, where applicable.

IV. the veterinary prescription pursuant to which the feed is manufactured contains a statement signed by the person for whom the prescription was issued indicating that he/she has read and understands the feeding instructions or directions for use and the warning statements and caution statements set out on the prescription except that no such statement is necessary in those cases where, for practical reasons, the veterinarian who issued the prescription issued it directly to the manufacturer of the feed and is satisfied that the person for whom the prescription was issued was adequately aware of the information set out on the prescription

V. a copy of the veterinary prescription is in the possession of the manufacturer of the feed prior to the delivery of the feed, and

VI. the feed is labelled in accordance with subsection 26(7).

Note that in order for a veterinary prescription feed to be exempt from registration, as provided for in Section 5 of the *Feeds Regulations*, the veterinary prescription must be signed by hand. The required signature cannot be an electronic signature as the *Feeds Regulations* are not listed in either Schedule 2 or 3 of the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) so the requirement under a provision of a federal law for a signature cannot be satisfied by an electronic signature. Documents containing either a 'signature block' or a digital representation of the actual signature which has been scanned are not acceptable.

Veterinary Prescription Checklist

Inspectors who review veterinary prescriptions use the following checklist (all items are mandatory, unless otherwise indicated):

VETERINARIAN	
CLINIC	
PRODUCER	

REQUIREMENTS	ITEMS	Y
Date on which the prescription is written	DATE	
Veterinarian's signature	SIGNATURE	
Name and address of the person for whom the feed is	NAME	

to be manufactured and by whom it is intended to be used	ADDRESS	
Generic name and level of inclusion in the feed of the medicating ingredient prescribed by the veterinarian	MEDICATION	
	INCLUSION LEVEL	
Type and amount of feed to be manufactured. (The amount of feed manufactured does not exceed the amount that would be normally consumed by the number of animals prescribed to receive the feed during the prescribed period of medication)	TYPE OF FEED	
	AMOUNT OF FEED	
Number, kind, class and age and/or weight of the livestock intended to be fed the feed	NUMBER	
	KIND	
	CLASS	
	AGE and/or WEIGHT	
Special manufacturing instructions including necessary mill clean-up warnings, if any	MANUFACTURING INSTRUCTIONS	
Feeding instructions or directions for use of the feed which should include the period of medication during which the feed is to be fed to the livestock	FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS	
Warning statements and caution statements, where applicable.	WARNINGS	
	CAUTIONS	

For additional information about the CFIA's *Livestock Feeds Regulations,* contact your local CFIA office or visit the Agency's website at http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/feebet/feebete.shtml