

## Fact Sheet: Veterinary Drugs Requirements Summary

The primary goal of the CQM program is to ensure that producers are implementing best management practices to produce safe milk and meat. The program requirements related to veterinary drugs are designed to ensure that producers use veterinary drugs in a manner that will not compromise food safety for the milk or meat their cattle produce.

### What does the CQM program require regarding veterinary drugs?

The CQM program requires strict best management practices regarding medicines and chemicals used on dairy cattle. Regarding drug choice, the CQM program can only address the acceptability of products through the regulatory authorities, as approved drugs have undergone scrutiny to ensure their safety for food producing animals and human health.

The CQM program's requirements related to veterinary drug usage are:

1. The CQM program (November 2003) requires producers to use veterinary drugs approved for use in dairy cattle according to the label or veterinary prescriptions.

### Workbook, November 2003, Section B, pages 9 and 10:

**Question 27:** Do you use only livestock medicines (including medicated foot baths):

- Approved for use in dairy cattle?
- According to the label or according to written instructions from a veterinarian?

**Question 28:** Do you have written veterinary prescriptions available for every treatment administered not according to the label? (Record 8)

Producers are permitted to purchase and use veterinary drugs approved in another country for use in dairy cattle, as long as they use them according to the label. This is referred to as the Own-Use Import Policy under Health Canada. The CQM program has decided to change its requirements, due to the risk associated with this practice, and require veterinary prescriptions for all imported veterinary drug usage; however, the change will not be implemented until the revised version of the Reference Manual is published.

For treatments commonly used, a veterinarian may provide a producer with generic or "blanket" prescriptions for those generic situations.

2. Canadian Organic Production Systems Standards: In January 2008, the CQM program accepted the use of products listed in Section 5 of the Permitted Substances Lists (PSL) for Livestock Production (CAN/CGSB-32.311-2006, amended October 2008 and December 2009) according to the specifications indicated. Any product on the PSL used in a manner that is not described on the PSL needs a veterinary prescription.

The PSL is published on the Canadian General Standards Board website: [www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on\\_the\\_net/organic/index-e.html](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html).

3. July 2009, the CQM program accepted the use of notified cosmetics, provided that producers use them according to the label directions. A cosmetic is defined in the Food and Drugs Act as any substance or mixture of substances manufactured, sold or represented for use in cleansing, improving or altering the complexion, skin, hair or teeth, and includes deodorants and perfumes. To sell a cosmetic in Canada, a manufacturer must disclose the ingredients to Health Canada, who reviews the acceptability of each ingredient and notifies the company if the product is acceptable.

The CQM program has posted a “List of Approved Livestock Products without Approval Identifiers” on its website at: [www.dairyfarmers.org/cqm](http://www.dairyfarmers.org/cqm).

4. March 2010, the CQM program accepted the use of veterinary Natural Health Products (vNHPs) as listed on the Canadian Veterinary Natural Health Products List.

The list of vNHPs is expected to be published soon on the CFIA webpage: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>.

### **Can producers use an unapproved drug or chemical?**

Producers can only use an unapproved drug or chemical if they obtain a veterinary prescription for it.

### **What is the risk associated with unapproved veterinary drugs?**

Unapproved drugs present a great potential food safety risk, as they have not been evaluated for food safety, quality or efficacy by Health Canada. The requirement for a veterinary prescription ensures that a veterinarian has evaluated the risks associated with the product, as veterinarians either have the knowledge or have access to sources of information that permit them to evaluate the need for the use of unapproved drugs and the measures necessary to mitigate any safety risk for the milk and meat produced from treated cattle.

### **Do teat dips need to be approved?**

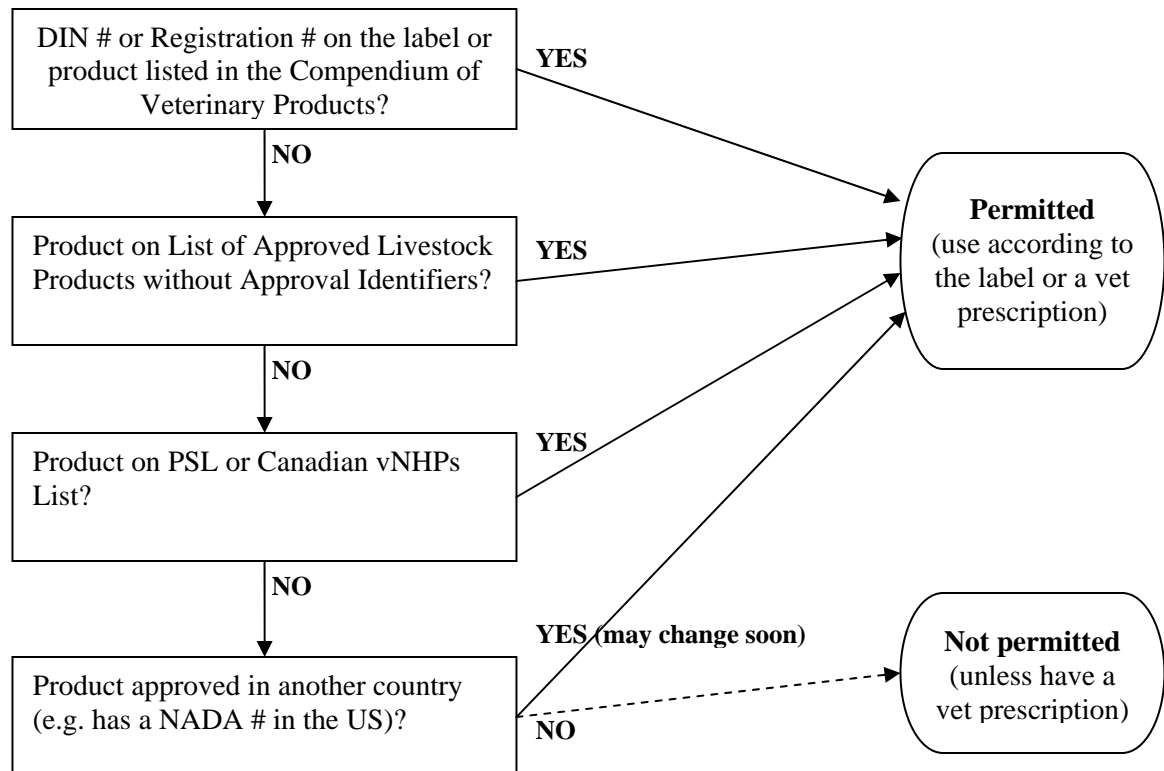
Yes, teat sanitizing products are classified as drugs, and must have a DIN. Some teat cleansing products are notified cosmetics, but please note that cosmetics are not sanitizers, and, therefore, do not meet the sanitizing teats requirement.

## How will a validator score unapproved veterinary drug usage?

The use of unapproved veterinary drugs without a veterinary prescription is a major nonconformance on a validation report under Question 27. Producers have to correct major nonconformances before their registration can be issued or continued.

## How can producers or validators determine if a product is permitted?

Producers and validators can determine if a product is permitted by following this decision tree:



## Who can I contact for more information?

1. Your provincial producer association
2. Visit: [www.dairyfarmers.org/cqm](http://www.dairyfarmers.org/cqm)