



ASSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY AND EFFICACY
OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

To interested organisations

Direct dial: 01932 338322

E-mail: e.crutcher@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 199884

Date: 14 December 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Invitation to an Open Meeting on 10 January on proposals to amend European law relating to veterinary residues

I would like to invite you to an Open Meeting to discuss progress on a review of European law relating to residues. The review includes three main pieces of legislation, but the meeting will focus on the proposal to replace Council Regulation 2377/90, which lays down a Community procedure for the establishment of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin.

This was part of a short initial consultation exercise when the VMD wrote to you on 30 August, and I am grateful for the replies I received. Several Council Working Groups have been held in recent months but progress has been very slow, partly owing to concerns from several Member States on how the proposed Reference Points for Action for unauthorised substances will work in producing a level playing field for EU and third country producers. A position paper setting out the issues will be available on the VMD website, www.vmd.gov.uk early in the New Year.

It has also become increasingly obvious during the negotiations that the Commission would like the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) to coordinate the evaluation of biocides with pharmacologically active substances used in animal husbandry which may need MRLs. No clear way forward has been identified on this aspect, and the VMD is preparing an explanatory paper which will also be available on the VMD website early in the New Year.

Several Member States, including the UK, have expressed their concern on the issues surrounding Reference Points for Action and the inclusion of biocides in this proposal. This has been done in the usual way by entering scrutiny reservations until the way forward is clearer and agreed.

Member States agree in principle with the suggestions that the EU should accept future Codex MRLs as EU MRLs where the EU agrees the science, and that a legal basis should be set for extrapolation of MRLs where the science underpinning the original MRL is robust. These principles were supported in the consultation responses.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3LS

Telephone (01932) 336911 Fax (01932) 336618 Website: www.vmd.gov.uk

Director and Chief Executive **Steve Dean** BVet Med DVR MRCVS

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



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Discussions will continue under Slovenia's Presidency, with the next meeting taking place on 14 January. A new text of the proposal has recently been issued, which is available on the website.

The meeting will be held at the Veterinary Medicines Directorate on **10 January 2008**. Entry is free, but by ticket only. I have enclosed an application form for you to apply by email to Isabel Sharma at i.sharma@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively you can telephone on 01932 338330 or write to Isabel at the VMD.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting

Yours faithfully



Eric Crutcher
Head of Residues Surveillance Unit

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

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Request to Attend Open Meeting on Reviewing Veterinary Residues Legislation

10 January 2008, Conference Room, Veterinary Medicines Directorate

If you would like to attend the Open Meeting on 10 January 2008, please could you fill in this form and send it to Isabel Sharma at the address below. Alternatively contact her by e-mail at:

i.sharma@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk, or

Tel 01932 338330

I wish to receive an invitation to the EU Residues Legislation Open Meeting

Name:

Address:

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Tel:

e-mail address

Requiring lunch Yes or No

Special dietary requirements

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