

## **On-line Special Import Certificates and On-line Special Treatment Certificates – Fees Waived from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008**

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is responsible for issuing Special Import Certificates (SICs) and Special Treatments Certificates (STCs) to enable Veterinary Surgeons to import medicines into the UK where no suitable UK authorised medicine exists. To speed-up the process of applying for, and obtaining, these certificates the VMD introduced an on-line web based service in April 2007.

Approximately 60% of SIC applications are now made on-line. Fewer STC repeats are currently progressed on-line but following the recent enhancements made to the system we anticipate the numbers of these will also increase. The on-line system is stable and is operating well.

The current cost for an on-line SIC or on-line STC repeat<sup>1</sup> application is currently £15. The VMD had always anticipated that it would be possible to reduce these charges once the cost of developing and enhancing the system had been recovered. A review has established that we are now able to waive the fee for these on-line applications as they require very little involvement of VMD staff, apart from providing advice on the use of the system and the monitoring of volumes. Rather than wait for the next changes to the Veterinary Medicines Regulations in October 2009, the VMD will be waiving the entire fee for all on-line applications, including those for SICs, repeat STCs and for Research Import Certificates (RICs), made on or after 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

The on-line service can be found on the VMD's Special Imports Website ([www.vmd.gov.uk](http://www.vmd.gov.uk) under "On-line systems"). The on-line service can be used to obtain SICs for a significant number of EU authorised veterinary medicines and may be used to obtain repeat STCs where the original STC for the animal(s) concerned specifies that repeats are permitted.

It will remain possible to obtain SICs and repeat STCs from the VMD via the paper based postal systems. However, due to the additional administrative costs that this incurs, it is necessary to charge a fee for paper based applications.

Paper based applications continue to be a requirement where an SIC is requested for a product for the first time and for new and renewed<sup>2</sup> STCs; these applications are examined by VMD scientists and therefore fees are set to recover the cost of this work.

The fees for paper based applications are £15 for SICs and £30 for STCs.

For further information please refer to the guidance published on the VMD's Special Imports Website, or the Veterinary Medicines Guidance Note (VMGN) 7. Either can be found at [www.vmd.gov.uk](http://www.vmd.gov.uk) or obtained as hard copies from the VMD, telephone 01932 338427. In addition you can contact the VMD on 01932 338442.

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<sup>1</sup> A repeat STC is an STC which relates to the same product and animal(s) as applied for originally and the ability to obtain further supplies of the product was indicated in the original certificate

<sup>2</sup> A renewed STC is an STC which relates to the same product and animal as applied for originally, but the original certificate did not include the provision for further supplies of the product