ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

37th Meeting of ACAF on 6 March 2007

Discussion Paper

REGULATING THE USE OF COCCIDIOSTATS AND HISTOMONOSTATS

**Action:** The Committee is invited to consider this issue and contribute to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate’s consolidated response to the Commission’s data-gathering exercise referred to in paragraph 2.

Feed Additives, Research and Enforcement Team  
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)  
February 2007
REGULATING THE USE OF COCCIDIOSTATS AND HISTOMONOSTATS – ARTICLE 11 OF EC REGULATION 1831/2003 ON FEED ADDITIVES

Background

1. At the Standing Committee of Food Chain and Animal Health on 29/30 January 2007, the European Commission (DG SANCO) confirmed that it would provide a report to the European Parliament and Council by 1 January 2008 concerning a decision on the phasing out of coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives before 1 January 2012. Such a report is a statutory requirement of Article 11 (1) of Regulation 1831/2003 (copy attached at Annex I).

2. The Commission has written to the International Federation for Animal Health Europe (IFAH) seeking information on actual sales of such products, the incidence and prevalence of the current state of coccidiosis, and the use of possible alternatives with comparative analysis of production costs (copy attached at Annex II). The letter was copied to Member States with the intention that they would circulate it to appropriate stakeholders, with a view to supplying the Commission with consolidated information by the end of the summer.

3. The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) position, endorsed by the independent Veterinary Products Committee and the Food Standards Agency, is that the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats should be phased out as feed additives by 31 December 2012 and their use should then be regulated as veterinary medicinal products.

4. Prevention or treatment of a disease is regarded as medicinal and should be authorised according to the criteria required for the authorisation of all veterinary medicines. Importantly, this approach supports the UK’s strategy to address concerns of antimicrobial resistance.

5. Subject to any decisions taken following the Commission’s review, it is likely that phasing out would not take place until 2012. This should provide sufficient time for the industry to adapt to the change, minimising the risks of losing the authorisation of these products.

Action

6. The Committee is invited to consider this issue and contribute to the VMD’s consolidated response to the Commission’s data-gathering exercise referred to in paragraph 2.

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Annex I

Article 11(1) of Regulation 1831/2003
Annex II

Commission’s letter