

What is a veterinary chemical product?

Veterinary chemical products are used to prevent, treat, cure, or alleviate animal diseases or conditions by administration or application of that product to an animal(s) or its environment.

The term **veterinary chemical products** includes both veterinary medicines and chemicals. Refer to [section 5 of AgVet Code](#) for the full definition.

[The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#) regulates AgVet chemicals in Australia. It is the independent statutory authority responsible for assessing and registering pesticides and veterinary medicines proposed for supply in Australia.

The APVMA website provides a tool to determine whether a product requires registration or a permit. See: <https://apvma.gov.au/node/176>.

Products requiring registration or a permit:

- antimicrobials
- pesticides
- anaesthetics
- immunological products.

Products that do not require registration or a permit:

- animal cosmetic products
- non-medicated feed products
- devices and physical barrier products
- colour intensifiers.

Antifouling products are not considered veterinary chemicals. They are agricultural chemicals which require registration and cannot be prescribed off-label by a veterinarian.

For further information visit the **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's website** at <https://apvma.gov.au/> or your relevant state or territory website.

ACT: Environmental Protection Act 1997 ACT

- <https://ablis.business.gov.au/service/act/agricultural-and-veterinary-chemicals-code/3650>

NSW: Stock Medicines Act 1989

- <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/animal/chemical-residues-in-stock-and-stock-food>
- <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/chemicals/animal-chemicals/stock-medicine>

VIC: Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals (control of use) Act 1992

- <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/chemicals/chemical-use-legislation/chemical-use-acts-and-regulations>

NT: Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals (control of use) Act 2004

- <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/farm-management/using-chemicals-responsibly>

QLD: Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Act 2004

- <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/chemical-controls/using-chemicals>

TAS: Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994

- <https://dppw.tas.gov.au/agriculture/agvet-chemicals/agvet-chemicals-contacts>

WA: Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995

- <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/veterinary-chemical-users>

SA: Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994

- https://pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture/aquatic_animal_health/veterinary_medicine_use_in_aquaculture

The **Australian Veterinary Association** provides veterinarians with information on prescribing obligations. For further information visit:

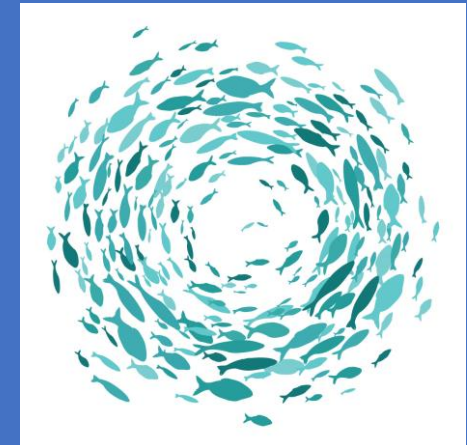
- <https://www.ava.com.au/library-resources/other-resources/prescribing-guidelines/>

Note: hyperlinks were correct at the time of publication.

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Aquatic Veterinary Medicines

Veterinary Chemical Product use for Aquaculture



Veterinary chemical products

Veterinary chemical products are an important tool for managing aquatic animal health and welfare, ecological sustainability (i.e. reduce risks of disease spread to wild populations), food security and human health (i.e. reduce risks of zoonosis).

When treating aquatic animals the product must be registered or permitted by the APVMA and should be prescribed by a veterinarian. Under state or territory legislation that controls prudent use of agriculture or veterinary chemicals, a veterinarian is able to prescribe some non-registered products and the use of some non-registered products without a permit. This is often called **off-label** use or **veterinarian compounded** use.

Assessment criteria

Products registered or permitted by the APVMA, have been assessed by the APVMA to ensure:

- the product is of appropriate quality and is manufactured to appropriate standards
- the product is efficacious
- the product is safe to use in target animals and food safety risks for its residues can be effectively managed (and will not pose a risk to international trade in target animals and their products)
- the product is safe to use for humans during preparation, application and storage
- the product is safe for the environment.

Apply for pre-application assistance from the APVMA when seeking a new product permit or registration. The APVMA will provide guidance on the data requirements of the request.

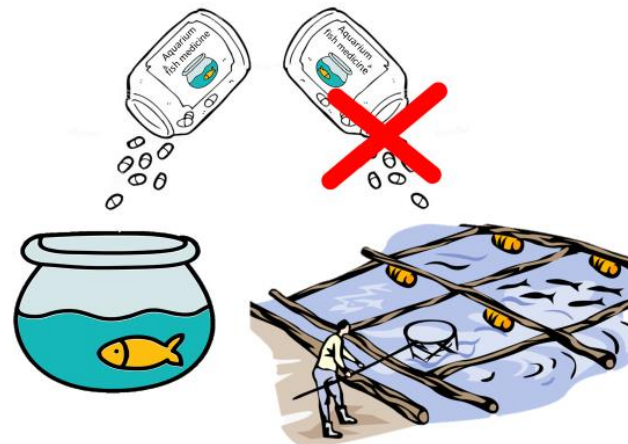
Product use

Products must be used as directed on the label unless prescribed by a veterinarian in the normal course of professional practice as permitted by state or territory law.

It is illegal to:

- provide a 'comparable' or 'equivalent' product that is not registered or permitted for the intended use
- use a product that is not registered for food-producing species.

The last point is of particular importance because many veterinary chemical products registered for use in aquarium species contain products that are banned for use in food-producing species.



Prescription products

Permitted and registered products that are scheduled S4 or S8 (i.e. prescription animal remedies or controlled drugs) in the Poisons Standard require a veterinary prescription.

Veterinarians can supply some products (excluding S8) to be stored on farm sites. However, prior to any use, a prescription must be provided which outlines the use based on veterinary diagnosis.

Veterinarians can only provide prescribed treatments for animals under their care. They must keep supporting records, and the veterinarian must provide the owner with written information on the correct usage and with-holding periods.

Veterinarians are not permitted to supply products for later use for third parties.

Off-label use

Off-label use is when a registered veterinary chemical product is prescribed for use in a manner that is outside the scope of the approved label instructions. This can include a variation to:

- species and/or production system
- dose and/ or delivery method
- treatment time.

A product can only be used off-label when prescribed by a veterinarian. Off-label requirements differ between jurisdictions. When a proposed use is outside of a veterinarians' prescribing rights an application may be made to the APVMA to justify the proposed use. Supporting information/data must be provided to the APVMA for assessment.