ACVM

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

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ACVM workshop reminder

The 2014 ACVM workshop will be held on Thursday, 27 February 2014, in Auckland at the Villa Maria Estate. See the December 2013 issue of *ACVM News and Views* for details and application form. If you have any queries, email Maree Zinzley.

Imported feed commodities

All feed commodities imported into New Zealand must be fit for their intended purpose. The importer of a feed commodity is responsible for that product on the domestic market. Importers must ensure that:

- sufficient controls are in place to deliver commodities that are safe and suitable for animal consumption
- hazards are identified and managed throughout the supply chain through to the point of sale.

The requirements for the manufacture, importation, sale and use of animal feed commodities are prescribed in the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (Exemption and Prohibited Substances) Regulations 2011. MPI has been developing the ACVM (Imported Feed Commodities) Notice to specify the minimum requirements for the importation of feed commodities to ensure compliance with the Regulations. This notice applies to:

- all persons importing feed commodities into New Zealand for animal consumption
- all persons involved in the manufacture of feed commodities for sale on the domestic market.

Consultation on this notice occurred late last year. Submissions from the consultation on the draft were considered and the notice was amended to address issues raised. For this reason MPI has published a final draft notice that is open for additional comment until **5pm Thursday, 6 March 2014.** Further information is on our website.

The ACVM (Imported Feed Commodities) Notice is the first notice issued under the ACVM Act to define the requirements of the Regulations. Further notices will be developed over time to provide detailed requirements and guidance on the Regulations as they relate to exempt agricultural compounds.

Non-consented human medicines

Under section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981 only medical practitioners are legally permitted to prescribe non-consented medicines (medicines that do not have Medsafe consent for importation and distribution). While this has always been the case, veterinarians have been prescribing these non-consented human medicines for a number of years.

The Ministry of Health advised MPI and the Veterinary Council of New Zealand (VCNZ) last year that it is illegal for veterinary wholesalers to import non-consented human medicines.

All three regulatory bodies have worked together to assist veterinarians who may need to import a non-consented human medicine. Both VCNZ and the Ministry of Health have put advice on their websites to assist veterinarians.

Under the ACVM Act and its Regulations, there is an exemption from registration for veterinarians to prescribe consented human medicines. However, a veterinarian who wishes to prescribe a non-consented human medicine must apply for special circumstances approval under section 8C of the ACVM Act. Information about this approval is on our website.

Annual Adverse Event Summary Report

The ACVM Group has completed a review of our internal systems used to capture data generated from the Adverse Event Reporting Programme*. A new method that will improve MPI's ability to analyse and utilise the information generated from these reports has been implemented. At the end of this year we will produce an Annual Adverse Event Summary Report that will be published on the website.

The Annual Adverse Event Summary Report is expected to provide trending information on reported adverse events and maintain public confidence in the process for registration of ACVM products. The information will be tabulated in the annual summary in a method similar to that used by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Three months of data have now been captured and analysed in a 'trial run' of the Annual Adverse Event Summary Report. This has been sent out to key industry groups for comments and feedback.

* This is a quality assurance programme developed by MPI. It aims to ensure that all ACVM products in the marketplace are safe, efficacious, of acceptable quality, used appropriately, and that product labels provide sufficient consumer information for correct use.

MRL update

Submissions on the current round for maximum residue limits (MRLs) closed on 7 October 2013 but finalisation was delayed. This round has now been signed off by the Minister.

The next round of MRL consultation, Proposals to Amend (No.2) the New Zealand (Maximum Residue Limits of Agricultural Compounds) Food Standards 2013, is on the website.

Food Bill update

The Food Bill is moving through the legislative process. The select committee is planning to hear submissions in the coming weeks and has a report back date of 6 May 2014. The Bill's section

on setting standards for maximum residue limits (MRLs) is of interest to the agricultural compound industry—the intention is to develop policy that will improve efficiencies and streamline the MRL setting process.

OECD Working Group on Pesticides (WGP) Meeting and Veterinary Medicines Directorate visit

March 2014

The OECD WGP meeting in Paris will provide an update on activities of its Steering Groups. Of particular interest:

- possible activities on illegal trade of pesticides
- the structure of the WGP.

In addition, there will be meetings between regulators and pesticide manufacturers on existing global joint reviews and proposals for future ones.

Prior to the OECD meeting, Warren Hughes will visit the UK's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). The visit, which is in response to an invitation from VMD, will be an opportunity to understand how our equivalent regulator operates and to discuss matters of mutual interest including antimicrobial resistance.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

May 2014, Nanjing

MPI's Warren Hughes and Dave Lunn will attend the next meeting of CCPR in the first week of May. In addition to progressing a large number of Codex MRLs, this year's meeting will discuss the ongoing revision of the Risk Analysis Principles and classification of foods and feeds documents. There is likely to be a discussion on how to manage the high workload of CCPR's risk assessment body JMPR.

Backlog of applications

Applications continued to come in during the Christmas holiday period and we are working through the backlog as quickly as possible. However, we are still working with reduced staff numbers, so do not expect rapid turnarounds.

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