

## VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE



### What does this mean for hoof trimmers?

#### What is the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)?

The FDA implemented a major change related to antibiotics that took effect in January 2017. Under the new ruling:

- All antibiotics previously labeled to be given via feed or water are no longer over the counter.
- Antibiotics meant to be included in the feed require a VFD written by a vet in order to be purchased and used by the farmer.
- Antibiotics labeled to go in the water require a prescription.

#### How does this change affect hoof trimmers?

Powdered antibiotics are often used when treating hairy heel warts. Tetsol™ 324 and Lincomycin Powder are two common products.



Now that the VFD order is in effect:

- Products require a prescription and are no longer available over the counter.
- A veterinarian can only issue a prescription to the owner of the animals.
- Hoof trimmers are no longer able to purchase these products since they don't own the animals they are working with.
- The farm needs to purchase the antibiotic for the hoof trimmer to use on that farm.
- Since the products require a prescription, the quantity sold is more regulated.

#### What can hoof trimmers do?

Several alternatives remain now that the antibiotics are restricted.

- First option: inform your clients of the powdered antibiotics you use so they can obtain a prescription from their veterinarian. Since the antibiotics will be used extra label, there will be milk and meat withholds. The veterinarian will provide directions for application on the product label.
- Second option: switch to the injectable tetracycline products, such as LA200™ or Agrimycin. These injectables will remain over the counter for the time being, and are a viable alternative.
- Third option: don't use any topical antibiotics. Many hoof trimmers are impressed with the results they see from using topical copper, zinc, formaldehyde or acid solutions. You should consult your hoof specialist to find a product that might work for you.



#### Armor Animal Health's Role

The veterinarians at Armor Animal Health have actively educated clients about the regulatory changes. They have modified labels and are ready to issue prescriptions for topical antibiotics. If there are herds you currently work with who would be interested in getting a prescription through Armor Animal Health, please feel free to contact your representative.

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## VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE



### What does this mean for producers?

#### What is the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)?

The FDA changed the guidelines regarding antibiotics in feed or water in January 2017. Under the new ruling:

- All antibiotics labeled to go into feed or water are no longer over the counter but are under veterinary oversight. Antibiotics labeled to go into the water require a prescription, while antibiotics that go into the feed require a VFD.
- A prescription is valid for 1 year. A VFD is applicable for 6 months and has to be written by a veterinarian.
- A feed mill will need a VFD in order to sell feed-grade antibiotics or medicated feeds. Additionally, all growth promotion labels have been removed and any such use is not allowed. An antibiotic is considered a growth promotant if it is fed at a low dose for an extended period of time. Any extra label use of a feed-grade antibiotic is illegal, so all usage is restricted to the label directions for treatment or control of specific diseases for a limited duration.

#### How has this change impacted producers?

Antibiotics such as Aureomycin Crumbles and medicated milk replacers that contain neomycin or tetracycline require a VFD in order to purchase them now. If you wish to use these products, your veterinarian will have to determine if there is a definite need for them. VFDs are not needed for products with coccidiostats.

- As an example: if incoming cattle frequently become ill upon arrival, a veterinarian could write a VFD for inclusion of tetracycline in the feed for a short period of time to control pneumonia. Once a vet writes a VFD, a feed mill could sell the requested antibiotic or add it to the feed.
- However, if the cattle are healthy and there has been no history of disease, a veterinarian could not write a VFD and a feed-grade antibiotic could not be purchased.

Medicated feeds previously labeled “for increased feed efficiency or weight gain” no longer bear these claims. This does not include feeds with coccidiostats such as rumensin, monensin, lasalocid, Corid™, Bovatec or deccox as these are not medically-important antibiotics.

Any antibiotics added to drinking water require a prescription now. This includes antibiotics such as Tetsol™ 324 and sulfas. Importantly, if your hoof trimmer uses a powdered tetracycline for hairy heel warts, you will have to supply the tetracycline as it is no longer over the counter. Since hoof trimmers don’t own the cows they work on, veterinarians cannot legally write a prescription to them. Ear implants are not affected by the new guidelines. All injectable antibiotics currently over the counter will remain so for the time being.

#### What can producers do?

If you wish to use antibiotics in the feed or water, you should let your veterinarian know what products you are using, what you are using them for, and which feed mill you purchase from. Your veterinarian will then decide if the antibiotic is needed. This will give your veterinarian time to prepare a VFD and/or a prescription, and ensure you can receive any necessary antibiotics in a timely manner.

#### Armor Animal Health’s Role

Armor Animal Health is committed to the success of producers. We strive to limit antibiotic use unless necessary and actively promote the health and wellbeing of our clients’ animals by preventing disease whenever possible. Armor Animal Health veterinarians are well equipped to deal with the necessary paperwork for prescriptions and VFDs. If you have any questions, contact us at any time.

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