

Veterinary Medicines – Legal Classification

Veterinary Medicines are controlled by regulations. Four different categories are defined and the different controls on supply and use for each category are summarised in the Table. The classification changed recently and the right hand column is a cross check with the previous classes.

Name		Supply Information	Previous Classification
POM-V	Prescription Only Medicine – Veterinarian	Must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon and can be supplied by any veterinary surgeon or pharmacist	POMs, MFS and a few P products
POM-VPS	Prescription Only Medicine - Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Suitably Qualified Person (SQP)	Must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon, pharmacist or SQP, and can be supplied by any of those persons	Livestock PMLs, MFSX, and a few P products
NFA-VPS	Non-Food Animal medicine - Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Suitably Qualified Person	Can be supplied by a veterinary surgeon, pharmacist or SQP.	Companion animal PMLs, and a few P products
AVM-GSL	Authorised Veterinary Medicine - General Sales List	Can be supplied by anyone	GSL products including, for the moment, livestock GSLs

Every veterinary medicine must be authorised before it can be marketed in the UK. An authorised medicine is one which is labelled for the UK market and bears the UK marketing authorisation number. This can be identified by the letters **Vm** or **PL** followed by a five digit code, an oblique and a four digit code, for example **Vm 04321/4001**. Only veterinary medicines, which display an authorisation number in this format or products displaying a code with a prefix EU (which are authorised throughout Europe) may be used in the UK. Manufacturers of authorised products must produce a data sheet or a summary of the product characteristics (SPC) which identifies the legal distribution category and sets out recommended conditions of use.

Veterinary medicines must be properly labelled. Even if a POM has a product authorisation it is **NOT** an authorised product unless it is properly labelled and it must not be used.

In special circumstances veterinary surgeons may import medicines authorised in other countries if they are in possession of a Special Treatment Authorisation (STA) for the product concerned.

Homeopathic remedies

Any product or substance that is claimed to have an effect on health or is to be used to treat disease is defined as a medicinal product and must comply with the Veterinary Medicines Regulations. Full details as to how the Regulations apply to Homeopathic remedies can be found on the VMD website at: <http://www.vmd.gov.uk/General/VMR/vmgn/vmgnote09.pdf>

Any products administered to food producing animals must be labelled with withdrawal periods unless it has been demonstrated that the level of active principle is equal to or less than one part per million.

Homeopathic remedies must not be confused with herbal or other remedies. If herbal or other remedies make any medicinal claim they must undergo product authorisation as with all other medicines.

