

SBA Technical Data Sheet 12

Recording the Acquisition, Administration and Disposal of Veterinary Medicines

Veterinary medicines are controlled at the UK level, unlike bee health and the environment which are responsibilities of the Scottish Government. It is strongly recommended that beekeepers read and understand the requirements of the relevant legislation in Part 3 here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/2033/contents>

Notes on the legal use of veterinary medicines

It is a requirement of The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 that anyone treating food producing animals under their care only uses licensed veterinary medicinal products in accordance with the directions that come with the product. It is also a requirement that the owner keeps a record of acquisitions (date of acquisition, name and address of the supplier, name of the product, batch number and quantity), details of the administration to the animals (date of administration, product name, quantity administered, withdrawal period where applicable* and identity of treated units) and details of the disposal of unused veterinary medicines if not used to treat animals (date of disposal, quantity of product and how and where it was disposed of).

As honey bees are food producing animals there is a legal obligation on all beekeepers to keep such records. There is, however, no stipulated format. The forms below are an example of a way in which the required details may be kept. If records are kept electronically it is strongly recommended that regular back-ups of information are retained. If required to do so by an authorised inspector, the record-keeper must be able to supply a manual record or a print of an electronic one. These records must be maintained for at least 5 years even if the bees are no longer kept.

We recommend that beekeepers use the three forms below to record: a) the **acquisition** of medicines, b) the **administration** of medicines and c) the **disposal** of unused medicines. In addition, proof of purchase (if bought from a vendor) or a documentary record of acquisition (if obtained in another way) must be retained. Receipts or other documents can be lodged along with the completed forms.

Unused veterinary medicines available through general sales (designated 'AVM-GSL') are regarded as safe to dispose via domestic refuse.

<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/public/disposal.aspx>.

Beekeepers may find it useful to consult the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's Product Information Database. This lists the products which are approved for sale in the UK. In certain circumstances, vets may be able to prescribe other products approved in other countries.

<https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/>

*Withdrawal period: the period after treatment before food production can recommence (i.e. when supers are replaced).

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 - Medicine Records

Name of person keeping the record:	Address:	Postcode:
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Acquisition of medicinal products

Date acquired	Name and address of supplier of product	Name of product	Batch number	Quantity acquired

Disposals of unused veterinary medicines

Date disposed	Name of product	Batch number	Quantity	How and where disposed

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 - Medicine Records

Name of person keeping the record:	Address:	Postcode:
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Administration records (data which are not a legal requirement in grey)

Date of administration	Product name	Batch no.	Total quantity of medicine applied	Treatment duration	Withdrawal period	Apiary location	Identity of hive(s) treated	Name of person administering medicine