

Position Statement on Importation of Non-Registered Drugs (Own Use Provision)

- The “Own Use” or “Personal Use” Provision allows the owner of an animal to import non-registered drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) into Canada, with the proviso that they only be used on their own animals. Only those drugs labeled with a Drug Identification Number (DIN), issued by the Veterinary Drugs Directorate (Health Canada), can be legally distributed and sold in Canada.
- Products that do not display a DIN are not regulated by Health Canada, and hence data regarding their purity, safety, stability, and efficacy may not be known.
- Appropriate withdrawal times for APIs cannot be extrapolated from Canadian approved drug products because APIs lack established scientific test data and manufacturing quality controls. Even if non-registered drugs are approved in other countries, Canadian standards for approval and withdrawal times may differ.
- The Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners supports the Veterinary Drug Directorate in its efforts to adopt more appropriate regulations for non-registered veterinary health products and APIs intended to be used in food-producing animals. The use of these products introduces an unnecessary risk to persons consuming food derived from animals treated with these unapproved products.