



CABV/ACVB Position Statement

Importation of Veterinary Drugs Unapproved in Canada for Food-Producing Animals

Considering that:

- Canada enjoys an ample supply of high quality, safe, wholesome food products from its beef and dairy industries and must continue to focus on these areas to protect domestic and international markets.
- Current quality initiatives in both the beef and dairy sectors focus on protocols and procedures to ensure the safety of food products produced. Paramount in these quality initiatives is the proper, in-label use of approved animal health products. Extra-label use is only permitted under the prescription by and proper veterinarian-client-patient relationship with a licensed veterinarian.
- Canadian bovine veterinarians are in the best position to understand, prescribe, and administer those products approved for use in Canada and are being asked to take responsibility for animal health products used on their client's farms.
- Current regulations within the Canadian Food and Drugs Act provide an "own use" clause which was designed for human use but is currently being used by livestock producers for the importation of a variety of animal health products, including Schedule F, Part I or prescription drugs. Many if not the majority of the imported drugs from the U.S. are currently available in Canada and are imported for cost purposes only.

The Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV) / Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins (ACVB) does not support the importation and use of unapproved veterinary drugs or vaccines in food producing animals in Canada. These products have not been approved and licensed by Health Canada/Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for human and animal safety and efficacy. Canadians that consume animal products treated with imported drugs may unknowingly be assuming additional risks to their health and well-being.

Cost advantages are not a sufficient reason to justify the importation and use of unapproved veterinary drugs in food-producing animals. Health Canada/CFIA requires that all veterinary products imported for sale, sold or advertised in Canada must have a valid Drug Identification Number. Our Association supports this federal regulation as it provides regulatory oversight for these products and protects the health and well-being of the Canadian consumer.