FAQ: ACVM ‘consumers’

Is this produce safe to eat?
Is a product registered?
Do I need approval to import?
Contact

Is this produce safe to eat?

I have not followed label directions when I used an agricultural chemical (off-label use) on my garden crops. Is it safe for me to eat my home garden produce?

We cannot give any assurances. Your options are to:

- get advice from the manufacturer or
- have the produce residue tested.

Wherever possible label directions should be followed and you should only use products with label claims for use on your specific produce.

I collected some roadside wild berries/nuts/food — is it safe to eat?

We are not in a position to tell if wild food collected is safe to eat. You should not collect food if you don’t know what it has been treated with. See our wild food website section.

Is a product registered?

How do I know whether a product is registered or not?

Products registered under the ACVM Act must have a registration phrase (for example, registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, no Axxxx) on the label. If an ACVM product does not have a registration phrase on the label, it is likely to mean the product does not require registration as it is either exempt from registration or outside the scope of the ACVM Act. To be sure, check our public register, which lists all registered products.

Public register
Do I need approval to import?

I want to import some pet food/nutritional supplements/creams for my pet. Do I need MPI approval to import them?

Generally pet foods, nutritional supplements, and non-medicated creams are exempt from registration, and small quantities for use on your own animals are acceptable for importation without prior approval from us. **Note: this does not include flea treatments.**

However, if you intend to bring in these types of products on a regular basis or in commercial quantities, we suggest that you apply for a class determination of the products. (There is a fee for this service.) If we determine that the products do not require registration, we will send you confirmation in a Class Determination Outcome Letter, which is valid for three years. This letter must be presented at the border to enable entry of the products into the country. Without the Outcome Letter your products will likely be detained. More information on class determination is available on our website.

I want to import a veterinary medicine to treat my pet. Do I need MPI approval?

As a general rule, products that are intended to treat animal diseases require registration with us. Most overseas products therefore cannot be brought into the country. To be acceptable, the overseas product must be manufactured to the same specifications and be labelled with the New Zealand approved label, which has the New Zealand registration number and important contact details. If the label is not identical to the New Zealand product label, then ACVM clearance will not be granted.

If you make an online purchase of a product that does not meet the above requirements, the veterinary medicine will be detained at the border and is likely to be destroyed or re-shipped at your cost. The product is an “illegal import”.

There are provisions that allow registered veterinarians to apply for import of veterinary medicines. One of the criteria that must be met before such an import is approved is that a similar product is not available in New Zealand.

I want to import a product that is registered as an agricultural compound in NZ for personal use as I have heard it is good for a human condition — how can I do this?

As long as you will not sell or use the product as an agricultural compound, you can fill out and send MPI Biosecurity NZ a declaration. This form can also be used to import an agricultural compound for laboratory testing/analytical work and market analysis. See the Importing page for your product type (agricultural chemical, veterinary medicine or vertebrate toxic agent) on our website.

Please note that there may be other legislation (such as the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996) that you must comply with.

Contact

For more information, contact us at approvals@mpi.govt.nz