

Writing feed prescriptions: regulatory considerations

Veterinary prescriptions play a crucial role in the work of feed mills who produce livestock feeds containing medicating ingredients. While the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) does not have legal oversight over veterinarians, they do heavily regulate and inspect feed mills, including what must be on prescriptions received from veterinarians. It is essential that feed mills receive complete, accurate and compliant prescriptions to ensure that:

- feeds can be manufactured in a timely manner, avoiding delays in treating animals.
- administrative burden is minimized for both the vet team and feed mill.
- feed mills avoid non-compliances issued by a CFIA inspector due to non-compliant prescriptions. The more non-compliances a feed mill receives, the more often they are inspected.

Key components of compliant feed prescriptions

Canadian regulations¹ lay out the elements that veterinary feed prescriptions must contain to be compliant. Those elements are as follows:

- Date of prescription
- Name and address of the person for whom the feed is to be manufactured (owner) and of the person by whom it is intended to be used (if different from owner)
- Animals to be medicated:
 - Number
 - Species
 - Production type
 - Age or weight
- Type and amount of medicated feed to be manufactured
- Name, concentration and amount of each medicating ingredient to be added to the feed
- Any special manufacturing instructions, including any necessary facility clean-up warnings
- Directions for use of the feed, including feeding instructions and the duration of use or exact dates for feeding the medicated feed
- Warning statement with the withdrawal period to be observed following the use of the medicated feed
- Other labelling instructions including cautions and warnings with respect to animal health or to the handling or storage of the medicated feed, where applicable
- Prescribing veterinarian's name and signature

Keep in mind:

Feed prescriptions can be written for medicating ingredients permitted under:	Feed prescriptions cannot be written for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochures (CMIB) • Investigational New Drug (IND) • Emergency Drug Release (EDR) • Experimental Studies Certificate (ESC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrients (e.g. to exceed maximum nutrient levels) • Veterinary biologics • Veterinary health products (VHPs)

Script templates by species, which include all elements needed to be compliant, are publicly available to download on ANAC's [Writing Livestock Feed Prescriptions](#) webpage.



Tip:

Prescriptions can refer to the [Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochures \(CMIB\)](#) instead of reiterating the information.

MEDICATED FEED INFORMATION						
Brand Substitution Acceptable?		Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/>		No <input type="radio"/>		
Feed to be Medicated (As stated above)	CMIB code	CMIB Claim #	DIN product BRAND NAME (Active ingredient)	g of AI/kg DIN product	g of AI/tonne complete feed	g of DIN product/tonne complete feed
Poultry starter	BACN-Z	1	Albac 110 Zinc Bacitracin Premix (Bacitracin (as zinc bacitracin))	110	110	1000
Warning(s):			Caution(s):			
As per CMIB			As per CMIB			

Example of reference to CMIB within the prescription, where the prescription also includes the corresponding CMIB code and claim number (note this is a portion of a fictional prescription)

¹The use of medicating ingredients within livestock feeds is primarily regulated under the authority of the *Feeds Regulations, 2024* and the *Food and Drug Regulations*.



Understand the difference between medicated and custom medicated feeds and the implications for feed mills

Under the *Feeds Regulations*, feeds containing medicating ingredients are divided into two types:

Medicated feeds	Custom medicated feeds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “On label” • Use of the medicating ingredient(s) align(s) exactly with the details set out in the CMIB • For medicated feeds that require a prescription (e.g. medically important antimicrobials), feed mills require the prescription prior to sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Off label” • Use of the medicating ingredient(s) differ(s) from the details set out in the CMIB • All custom medicated feeds require a prescription, and the feed mill must have the prescription in hand prior to manufacturing the feed

If there is **any difference** between the prescription and the CMIB, the feed manufactured using that prescription is considered a custom medicated feed. This includes (but is not limited to) different:

- wording compared to what is set out in the CMIB, e.g. caution and/or warning statements
 - this includes minor wording changes that communicate the same information
- withdrawal times
- species
- dosage or feeding rates
- drug combinations

Medicated feeds provide feed mills with certain logistical advantages and flexibilities compared to custom medicated feeds, including:

- the ability to floor stock/manufacture the feeds before receiving the prescription
 - especially critical for small lots (e.g. bagged feeds for young animals where the producer may only need a small quantity)
- easy and instantaneous access to accurate information in the CMIB
- less onerous labelling requirements

Feed prescription helpful practices

Follow the helpful practices listed below to avoid common mistakes and optimize workflow for your vet team and the feed mills you work with.

- Ensure scripts are accurate and contain all required elements.
 - Remember: ANAC provides fillable prescription templates containing all required elements, as well as a checklist of those elements, on our [Writing Livestock Feed Prescriptions](#) webpage.
- Avoid unintentionally prescribing a custom medicated feed (i.e. “off label”) by carefully following the CMIB for medicated feeds (i.e. “on label”).
 - Avoid making wording changes to the text found in the CMIB unless intending to provide different information.
 - Remember that you can reference the CMIB in your script instead of reiterating the information.
- Indicate the name of the medicating ingredient only (and not the brand name) to avoid inadvertently inhibiting the mill from using brand substitutions.
 - Brand name may be provided optionally if desired.
- Provide adequate prescription duration and feed tonnage to meet treatment needs to avoid the need for additional prescriptions.
- Communicate with the feed mill about incoming prescriptions and provide them as early as possible. This helps the mill plan for the manufacturing of the feed in their production schedule to ensure delivery to the producer as quickly as possible.
- Understand the regulatory requirements for feed prescriptions and review your scripts for compliance before providing them to the feed mill.

The information contained in this document is provided by ANAC for general guidance and is not intended to replace or serve as a substitute for any legislative text or regulatory requirements.