



VFD Terminology



Veterinary Feed Directive Terminology:

A helpful guide to understanding the language used in writing VFDs.

This document is designed to aid licensed veterinarians in writing complete and accurate Veterinary Feed Directives (VFDs). The definitions provided are taken from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 12, Chapter 1, Subchapter E, Part 558, which is the Federal guideline for VFD terminology.

The Code of Federal Regulations **What is it?**

- The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Specifically, CFR 558.3-558.6 is the legal framework that outlines how VFDs must be written and what is required both from the veterinarian and feed distributor.
- **CFR Title 21, Chapter 1, Subpart E, Part 558 can be accessed from the following website:** <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-558>

Category I **Drugs**

- Category I Drugs require either no withdrawal period at the lowest use level in each major species for which they are approved, or they are approved for use only in minor species.

Category II **Drugs**

- All drugs classified as Category II drugs are those that require a withdrawal period at the lowest use level for at least one major species for which they are approved. This general definition can be found in CFR 558.3, and information about specific VFD drugs and withdrawal times can be found in CFR 558 Subparts A and B. Category II Drugs also may be regulated on a “no-residue” basis or with a zero tolerance because of carcinogenic concern regardless of whether a withdrawal period is required in any species (major or minor).



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Terminology, *cont.*



Type A Medicated Article

- A drug used in or on an animal feed that contains the most concentrated form of the drug. A Type A medicated article is never fed directly to an animal and can be used to make another Type A medicated article (also with a high concentration). A Type A medicated article can also be mixed or diluted into other feed ingredients to make Type B or Type C feeds that have a lower drug concentration prior to distribution and feeding.
- A **Category I Type A** medicated article **can** be distributed to an animal producer/owner.
- A **Category II Type A** medicated article **cannot** be distributed to an animal producer/owner. Only feed manufacturers that have a medicated feed mill license from the FDA can distribute a Category II Type A medicated article (CFR 558, Title 21, Chapter 1, Subchapter E, Part 515).

Type B Medicated Feed

- A Type B medicated feed is a concentrated medicated feed that is made from the dilution of a Type A medicated article with a feed ingredient(s). It, therefore, contains a lower drug concentration than a Type A medicated article.
- A Type B medicated feed is not fed to an animal and is intended solely for the manufacture of other medicated feeds (Type B or Type C) through further mixing and/or dilution.
- Only feed manufacturers that have a medicated feed mill license from the FDA can manufacture a Type B medicated feed from a Category II, Type A medicated article (CFR 558, Title 21, Chapter 1, Subchapter E, Part 515).



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Type C Medicated Feed

- A Type C medicated feed is intended for use as the complete feed for the animal, or a Type C medicated feed may be fed top dressed or offered free choice in conjunction with other animal feed.
- A Type C medicated feed is manufactured by diluting a Type A medicated article or a Type B medicated feed with additional feed ingredient(s).
- A Type C medicated feed may be further diluted to produce another Type C medicated feed.
- Only feed manufacturers that have a medicated feed mill license from the FDA can manufacture a Type C medicated feed from a Category II, Type A medicated article (CFR 558, Title 21, Chapter 1, Subchapter E, Part 515).

Major Species

- Cattle, horses, swine, chickens, turkeys, dogs, and cats

Minor Species

- Animals, other than humans, that are not major species such as: sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, rabbits, and exotic species (e.g. fish, psittacine birds, etc.).

Requirement of A Medicated Feed Mill License

- A feed manufacturing facility must possess a medicated feed mill license in order to manufacture a Type B or Type C medicated feed from a Category II, Type A medicated article.
- The manufacture of the following types of feed are exempt from the required license, unless otherwise specified:
 - *A Type B or Type C medicated feed using a Category I, Type A medicated article or using Category I, Type B or Type C medicated feeds*
AND
 - *A Type B or Type C medicated feed using a Category II, Type B or Type C medicated feeds*