



Understanding the VFD Form



Understanding the VFD Form:


A helpful description of the information that is required on a VFD form.

Veterinarians writing a veterinary feed directive (VFD) have a variety of different forms they can use including drug-specific forms provided by pharmaceutical companies, clinic-specific forms, and digital forms accessed through an online document organizing service. Regardless of the origin of the form, each VFD must contain specific information based on the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 558). Additional information may be included that could be helpful in understanding the details of the VFD order.

Ensuring that the VFD form is completed properly helps to eliminate errors that could result in a VFD product not reaching a client in a timely manner. This guide can be used as a resource to ensure accuracy of the VFD order.

Required information on a VFD order

- Veterinarian name, address, and phone number
- Client name, business or home address, and telephone number
- Premises where the animals specified in the VFD are located
 - The address must be complete so the animals can be located if necessary
- Approximate number of animals that will consume the VFD feed by the time that the VFD expires
- Name of the VFD drug or drugs to be fed
- Species and production class that will consume the VFD feed
 - Specific definitions of allowable species production classes can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at the following link:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-558>

 Example from CFR 558.128 (e)(4)(iv): “Calves, beef and nonlactating dairy cattle”



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- Indication for use of the VFD feed
 - Specific definitions of allowable uses of VFD drugs can be found in the CFR at the following link:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-558>
 - ✍ Example from CFR 558.128 (e)(4)(iv): “For treatment of bacterial enteritis caused by *Escherichia coli* and bacterial pneumonia caused by *Pasteurella multocida* organisms susceptible to chlortetracycline”
- Duration of use of the VFD feed
 - Depends on the drug, the indication for drug use and the production class of animals. The specific definitions of the allowable duration of use of VFD drugs can be found in the CFR at the following link:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-558>
 - The FARAD website can also be used as a resource:
 - <http://www.farad.org/WDCalc/>
- Concentration of the VFD drug in the VFD feed
 - Calculation guidance can be found at multiple online resources
 - <https://www.vin.com/vfd>
 - http://www.farad.org/publications/vfd/farad_vfd_calculator.pdf?pdf=vfd-calculator
- Withdrawal time
 - A withdrawal time must be included even if the withdrawal time is 0 days
 - Information about withdrawal times for VFD drugs can be found in the CFR at the following link:
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-558>



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- Date that the VFD was issued
- Expiration date of the VFD
 - The VFD expiration date must not extend beyond the expiration date that is defined in the CFR.
 - If an expiration date is not specified in the CFR, the expiration date cannot be longer than **6 months** after the date that the VFD was issued.
- Special instructions and any cautionary statements needed for use of the VFD feed to conform to the drug use approval
- Number of refills that are authorized *if permitted by the drug approval, conditional approval or index listing*
 - If refills are **not specified** on the labeling for a VFD drug, refills are not permitted
- The following statement:
 - “Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling (extra-label use) is not permitted.”
- An affirmation of intent for combination VFD drugs as described in CFR 558.6 (b)(6)(i-iii)
 - This affirmation must note if the VFD is *only* for the VFD drugs noted on the form without any combined drug use OR must note if combined drug use is allowed with the VFD
- The veterinarian’s written or electronic signature
- If writing a legally permissible, extra-label VFD for a minor species, the following statement must be included:
 - “This VFD is being issued in accordance with CPG 615.115.”
 - <https://www.fda.gov/media/71960/download>



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Information that can be included on a VFD order

Why add optional information to the VFD form?

To help further identify the animals authorized to be treated with or fed the VFD feed.

- A more specific description of the location of the animals
 - By site, pen, barn, stall, tank, etc.
- The approximate age range of the animals
- The approximate weight range of the animals
- Any other information that the veterinarian feels is appropriate to identify the animals in the VFD
- Mixing instructions for the VFD feed

Additional requirements for a veterinarian to complete when writing a VFD

- The veterinarian must issue a written VFD; verbal authorization of VFDs by a veterinarian is **not** permitted (e.g. a veterinarian cannot “call in a VFD”)
- The veterinarian must send a copy of the VFD to the distributor in one of the following ways:
 - Hardcopy sent to the distributor either directly or through the client
 - Facsimile (fax)
 - Electronically
- The veterinarian must provide a copy of the VFD to the client
- The veterinarian, client and distributor must each retain a copy of the VFD for 2 years after it has been issued