



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ANTIMICROBIAL USE AND STEWARDSHIP Common Issues on Veterinary Feed Directives

California's Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 14406 allows the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to collect copies of all Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) orders from Distributors selling VFD feed from, or into, California. All VFD order information is kept confidential in accordance with FAC Section 14407. All VFD orders collected are reviewed for completeness in accordance with FDA's Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 21, Section 558.6 in an effort to ensure that Distributors are only accepting lawfully compliant VFD orders. Some areas that need improvement are:



- Ensuring the VFD order contains the identifying information for the veterinarian and client including physical addresses, telephone contact numbers, and any additional information for animals on a separate premises from the client address.
- Identify the number of animals, species of animal, and production class is listed clearly on the order.
- Identify the specific VFD drug(s), VFD feed product name (i.e. Aureomycin), indication for use, explicit dosage in g/ton with instructions per animal, duration of feeding, and clear numerical withdrawal times (even if the withdrawal time is zero).
- Special Instructions are not required to be on a VFD Order, however they must be accurate to provide the approved dosage if present.
- Indicate if combination use is allowed, and that the veterinarian has identified themselves and a valid signature is on the VFD order. Verbal orders are not allowed
- Ensure that a VFD order is written for 6 months or less. (21 CFR 558)

A full listing of what is required to be on a VFD order can be found on FDA's eCFR website listed below. If a VFD order is received by a Distributor with incomplete information it is the responsibility of the Distributor to reject the VFD order as unlawful and incomplete. The VFD order can -only be accepted, and subsequently filled, once all of the information required has been accounted for in compliance with the law.

More information about VFD requirements can be found on:

CDFA's Safe Animal Feed Education program's website:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/VeterinaryFeedDirective.html>

FDA's Code of Federal Regulations regarding VFD information:

[https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=4a7c0a4edda48c8471c1b2f38e8e4ddc&mc=true&node=se21.6.558)

[SID=4a7c0a4edda48c8471c1b2f38e8e4ddc&mc=true&node=se21.6.558_16&rgn=div8](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=4a7c0a4edda48c8471c1b2f38e8e4ddc&mc=true&node=se21.6.558_16&rgn=div8)

More information about Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in California can be found on CDFA's Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship program's website:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/AUS/>

