



Over a Century of Innovation & Trust

The VFD FAQ

What is it?

- ✓ A Veterinary Feed Directive is a written order (either paper or electronic) from a licensed veterinarian. It is not a prescription as it is not governed by a state's board of pharmacy.

Who is involved?

- ✓ The VFD needs to be written by a licensed veterinarian. The farm must have an established relationship with the veterinarian in order to obtain a VFD. Copies must be given to the client and the feed mill dispensing the VFD feed.

When does it go into effect?

- ✓ January 2017

How long are VFDs good for?

- ✓ The VFD is valid for 6 months and then needs renewal. All copies of the VFD must be retained on file for a minimum of 2 years.

What does it affect?

- ✓ Regulations affect the antibiotics used in feed, not medications such as ionophores, coccidia/parasite/insect-control drugs, or reproductive-management drugs.

Why is the FDA doing this?

- ✓ The major reason behind the VFD is the concern for antibiotic resistance that is associated with daily antibiotic use in animal feed. The decision has been made to move away from growth and feed efficiency claims and/or long-term use (>21 days). The FDA is hoping that this will lessen the development of antibiotic resistance. Approved claims under the VFD regulations will be for prevention, treatment, or control of specified bacterial diseases.

What will the VFD target?

- ✓ Only medications used in livestock and poultry feed that are considered "medically important to humans" will be affected.

What Famo medications will be affected by VFD regulations?

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| ✓ AS 700 (Aureomycin/sulfamethazine) | ✓ Neo Terra (neomycin/oxytetracycline) |
| ✓ Aureomycin (chlortetracycline) | ✓ Terramycin (oxytetracycline) |
| ✓ Lincomycin | ✓ Tylan (Tylosin) |

In reference to the regulations, what exactly is meant by prevention, treatment, or control?

- ✓ Prevention – A VFD can be issued for prevention of a disease risk that is present to prevent animals from infection. None of the animals are exhibiting signs of disease but disease is likely to occur without medication.
- ✓ Treatment – VFD antibiotic administered because animals are exhibiting signs of infection.
- ✓ Control – A VFD can be issued to limit the spread of disease once a percentage of the herd begins to exhibit signs of disease.