

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Update on Korea's Positive List System for Veterinary Drugs

Country: Korea - Republic of

Post: Seoul

Report Category: Dairy and Products, Fishery Products, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

This is an update to a voluntary GAIN report KS2023-0013, Korea's Positive List System for Veterinary Drugs. Information on MRL violations and MRL changes has been added.

On January 1, 2024, Korea will remove its policy of recognizing veterinary drug residues for same tissue/similar species and will no longer accept Codex Alimentarius (CODEX) maximum residue levels (MRLs) for veterinary drugs. Instead, Korea will implement its Positive List System (PLS), referencing only domestic MRLs or import tolerances (IT) for veterinary drugs in beef, pork, chicken, eggs, milk, and fishery products. In the absence of a Korean MRL or IT, these products will be subject to a 0.01ppm residue tolerance.

PLS Schedule

Korea defines veterinary drugs as any medicine used in animals for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment, reduction or prevention of disease.

1 st Phase (Until December 2023)	2 nd Phase (Starting January 2024)	
For all livestock and fishery products: 1. CODEX 2. Lowest MRL set for same tissue of a similar animal species 3. For antimicrobial, if #1 and #2 are not applicable, 0.01 mg/kg default limit applies 4. For growth supplements and steroid type anti-inflammatory drugs, “non-detection” applies	For beef, pork, chicken, milk, eggs, and fishery products: 1. MRLs or IT set by Korea apply 2. In the absence of Korea’s national MRLs or Import Tolerances, 0.01mg/kg default limit applies 3. For growth supplements and steroid type anti-inflammatory drugs, “non-detection” applies	For products other than beef, pork, chicken, milk, eggs, and fishery products: 1. CODEX 2. Lowest MRL set for same tissue of a similar animal species 3. For antimicrobials, if #1 and #2 are not applicable, 0.01 mg/kg default limit applies 4. For growth supplements and steroid type anti-inflammatory drugs, “non-detection” applies

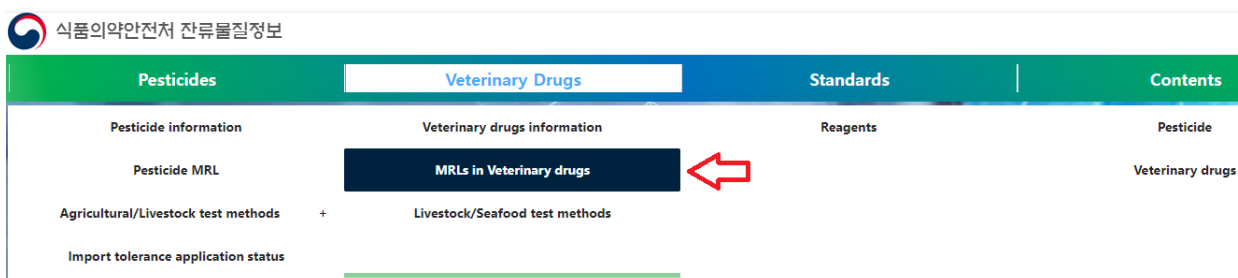
How to Check the Most up to Date Korean Veterinary Drug MRLs

To check the latest veterinary drug MRLs set in Korea, please follow the instructions below.

1. Please go to [Korea's Vet Drug MRLs](#) This MRL database site operated by MFDS is a Korean language base. Please click on a language bar on the top right hand side corner to switch Korean into English as below:

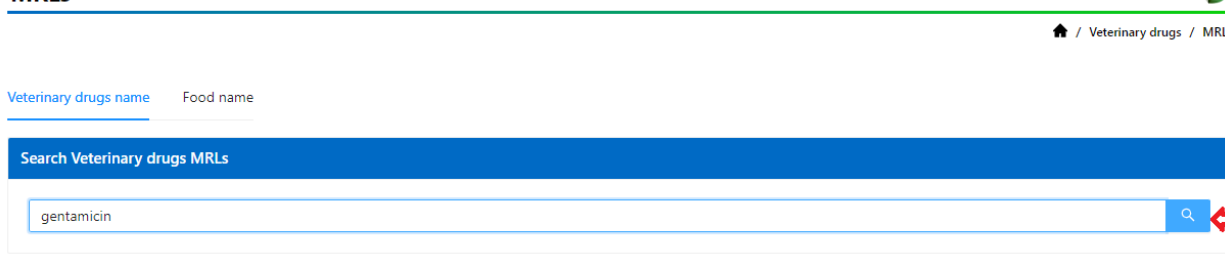


- Under the “Veterinary Drugs” heading, choose the “MRLs in Veterinary Drugs” from the dropdown.



- You can search by veterinary drug names or food names such as cattle muscle, cattle kidney, pig liver, etc. For veterinary drugs, simply type of name of a veterinary drug in a box and click a blue search logo. For example, if you want to search Gentamicin, type Gentamicin in a box and click the search icon.

MRLs



- To search by food name, select the “Food name” tab and enter the desired item. For example, if you search veterinary drug MRLs for cattle, type “cattle” in a box and click the search icon in blue.

[Veterinary drugs name](#) [Food name](#)

Search Veterinary drugs MRLs

cattle



Food name(Korean)	Food name(English)
소간	Cattle Liver
소근육	Cattle Muscle
소신장	Cattle Kidney
소지방	Cattle Fat
우유	Cattle Milk

5. Selecting a specific “Food name” will provide the list of veterinary drug MRLs are established for that product. For example, if you click on “Cattle Muscle.” Korea’s list of veterinary drug MRLs set for cattle muscle will appear.

Country	Veterinary drugs name(Korean)	Veterinary drugs name(English)	MRL
한국	가미스로마이신	Gamithromycin	0.02
한국	겐타마이신	Gentamicin	0.1
한국	구아이페네신	Guaifenesin	0.01
한국	나이트록소린	Nitroxoline	0.01
한국	나프실린	Nafcillin	0.3
한국	나프타존	Naftazone	0.01
한국	난드로론	Nandrolone	0.002
한국	날리딕스산	Nalidixic acid	0.03
한국	네오마이신	Neomycin	0.5
한국	노르제스토메트	Norgestomet	0.0002
한국	노보비오신	Novobiocin	1.0
한국	니스타틴	Nystatin	0.01
한국	니트록시닐	Nitroxinil	0.4
한국	다노플록사신	Danofloxacin	0.2
한국	덱사메타손	Dexamethasone	0.001
한국	델타메트린	Deltamethrin	0.03
한국	도라멕틴	Doramectin	0.01
한국	독시싸이클린	Doxycycline	0.1
한국	디미나진	Diminazene	0.5

Application for Import Tolerances or Higher MRLs

Applications for import tolerances or higher MRLs for veterinary drugs in livestock and fishery products may be submitted through the MFDS Public Portal Service ([IT Application Site](#)). MFDS encourages the industry to apply for import tolerances. MFDS charges an IT application fee of 10 million Korean won (approximately \$7,700 dollars) per animal species (i.e. no additional charges for multiple MRLs in various tissues of the same animal species). The application review process may take up to 12 months for an IT and 7 months for a higher MRLs or exemption request.

MRL Testing of Imported Products

MFDS will continue applying its existing MRL testing program after PLS implementation. The current testing policy is as follows:

1. Any new-to-market product of imported livestock products, including edible meat and fishery products, are subject to mandatory laboratory testing.
2. If there is any newly established MRLs or strengthened MRLs for edible meat, raw milk, eggs, and fishery products, MFDS may select testing compounds and conduct testing.
3. For fishery products, MFDS makes the annual testing program based upon market intelligence and conduct mandatory testing.

MFDS has taken the following measures to address industry concerns:

- As of May 2023, Korea has MRLs for 212 veterinary drugs.
- Designated 177 compounds that have no confirmed human risk or no residue present in livestock and fishery products are exempt from veterinary drug MRLs.
- Reduced testing time by establishing a simultaneous multi-residue testing procedure for 157 veterinary drugs.
- Renewed a list of MRLs for veterinary drugs and MRLs for agricultural compounds in livestock and fishery products by differentiating veterinary compounds used directly on animals and agricultural compounds as ones used at livestock or fishery farms.
- Continue to hold public outreach meetings with stakeholders, importers, veterinary drug manufacturers, foreign embassies, etc. on the rollout of the new PLS system.

According to MFDS, between 2018 and 2022, veterinary drugs that were found to be non-compliant in imported food were as follows:

Item	Veterinary Drug	Applicable Korean MRL (mg/kg)
Cattle	Nitrofurantoin (Semicarbazide: SEM)	Not detected (ND)
	Ractopamine	0.01
	Zilpaterol	0.001
Pig	Nandrolone	0.0002
Chicken	Nitrofurantoin (Semicarbazide: SEM)	ND

	Nicarbazin	0.2
Egg	Enrofloxacin	ND
	Ofloxacin	ND
	Metronidazole	ND
Fish	Ethoxyquin	0.1
	Dehydrocholic acid	0.01
	Ofloxacin	ND
	Isoeugenol	0.01
	Enrofloxacin	0.1
	Methylene blue	ND
	Malachite green	ND
Shrimp	Nitrofurans (Furazolidone: AOZ)	ND
	Norfloxacin	ND

Source: MFDS

Some current MRLs applicable for livestock and fishery products that will change from January 1, 2024 due to the deletion of the CODEX deferral path include following veterinary drugs:

Item	Veterinary Drug	Current MRL	New MRL after PLS in 2024
Cattle (muscle)	Monepantel	0.3 (CODEX)	0.01 (Default)
Pig (muscle)	Halquinol	0.04 (CODEX)	0.01 (Default)
Salmon/Trout	Lufenuron	1.35 (CODEX)	0.01 (Default)

Suggestion

Agricultural industry stakeholders should reference current Korean MRLs set for veterinary drugs in beef, pork, chicken, eggs, milk and fishery products within the MFDS database. If Korean MRLs for veterinary drugs are missing or needed for products exported to Korea, IT applications should be submitted to MFDS as soon as possible to avoid trade disruptions.

Attachments:

No Attachments.