

National Bee Unit

Bee Medicines



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Due care must be taken with anything introduced into a colony in order to prevent contamination of products which may be intended for human consumption. There are many products which are sold via beekeeping manufacturers to control pests and diseases, however, not all of these are legal because they have not gone through approval regulations set out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). This sheet intends to offer some basic guidance about what products are approved

What are 'approved medicines'?

In the UK, there are a number of treatments available 'over the counter'. However, not all of these will have gone through a registration process to ensure that they are safe to the user, colony and environment. At the time of writing the following are the only approved medicines for use with honeybees in the UK:

Name of Treatment	Active Ingredients	For the control of
Apiguard (Gel)	<i>Thymol</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Apilife-VAR (Strips)	<i>Thymol, and essential oils (Camphor, Eucalyptus and Menthol)</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Apistan * (Strips)	<i>Tau F</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Api-Bioxal (Powder or Solution)	<i>Oxalic acid dihydrate</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Apitraz (Strips)	<i>Amitraz</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Apivar (Strips)	<i>Amitraz</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Bayvarol * (Strips)	<i>Flumethrin</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Dany's BienenWohl (Powder and Solution)	<i>Oxalic acid dihydrate</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS)	<i>Formic acid</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Oxuvar (Powder and Solution)	<i>Oxalic acid dihydrate</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Oxybee (Powder and Solution)	<i>Oxalic acid dihydrate</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
PolyVar Yellow (Strips)	<i>Flumethrin</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
Thymovar (Strips)	<i>Thymol</i>	<i>Varroa</i>
VarroMed (Solution)	<i>Formic acid, Oxalic acid dihydrate</i>	<i>Varroa</i>

***Resistance to these products has been confirmed in the U.K.**

It is advisable to alternate treatment products in order to reduce the risk of *Varroa* mites becoming resistant to chemicals in Varroacides. Long term use of a single treatment poses a higher risk of *Varroa* resistance.

An up to date list can be found at:

<https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Default.aspx>

Changes to medicine approvals

Fumidil B is no longer authorised in the UK for the treatment of *Nosema spp.*

Can I use products that are available in Europe and elsewhere?

Where UK approved products are ineffective or unsuitable a Veterinary Surgeon can prescribe, using

the Cascade principal, products approved elsewhere in the EU. This system requires an import license which has to be obtained by a veterinary surgeon.

Can I use generic natural substances to treat my colonies?

Anything which is placed in a hive to control or eradicate a pest or disease is classed as a medicine and must be registered under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013. Therefore, homemade concoctions or any product which is not registered in the UK or elsewhere in Europe should not be used.

What records should I keep?

Current legislation requires that you keep a record of the purchase, use and disposal of any honeybee medicines. Attached to this FAQ is a record sheet, which meets all record keeping requirements, laid down in Veterinary Medicines Legislation. You may however wish to incorporate it into your apiary records so make sure you record all the listed mandatory requirements. Records should be kept them for at least five years.

This form is also available as a pdf at www.nationalbeeunit.com

No mention of a treatment should be taken as an endorsement of efficacy, safety or a recommendation to treat.

[Only use approved veterinary medicines.](#)

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VETERINARY MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION RECORD – TO BE KEPT FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS

NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF PERSON KEEPING RECORD	NAME:	NBU ID No:
ADDRESS:	TEL NO:	
POSTCODE:	E MAIL:	APIARY NAME / MAP REFERENCE:

TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF PURCHASE						TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF ADMINISTRATION							
Name and Address of Supplier of Medicinal Product	Date Purchased	Identity and Quantity of Medicinal Product				Date of Administration	Identification of Animal or Batch of Animals Treated		Date treatment finished	Date withdrawal period ended	Name of person administering veterinary medicine	Total quantity of veterinary medicine used	Date, quantity & route of disposal if not administered
		Name	Batch No	Quantity	Withdrawal Period		ID	Number Treated					

NB:

- **Columns headed in italics relate to information which is NOT a statutory requirement but will assist to meet some Farm Assurance Scheme requirements.**
- Proof of Purchase of all veterinary medicinal products must be kept.

These are general guidance notes only, and cannot be taken as an authoritative view of the law – further information can be obtained from Veterinary Medicines Directorate. Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey. KT15.3LS. Telephone: 01932 336911. www.vmd.defra.gov.uk

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