



Vertebrate toxic agent registration and best practice tips

Key points to help users meet compliance requirements

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Vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs)

Vertebrate toxic agents include:

- all products that claim to kill or control a vertebrate
- any substance used with the intended purpose of killing or limiting the viability of individual, or populations of, animals
- products that have a negative effect on reproduction.

Registration is required

Any VTA product used in New Zealand must be registered under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act, which is designed to manage risks to:

- agricultural security
- animal welfare
- public health
- trade in primary produce

and to avoid non-compliant residues in food.

(There are some exempt categories (repellents/attractants) but these are still subject to conditions under Schedule 2 of the ACVM Regulations.)

For trials, registration can be research or provisional registration.

- You must hold a research/provisional approval before starting trial work.
- You must provide Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) approvals.

To register a VTA, follow instructions in our Information Requirements and submit applications to the Approvals and ACVM Group of MPI. Include:

- comprehensive covering letter
- real time stability data
- justification for all deviations
- equivalence data/arguments (cross-referencing)
- full data packages for active ingredient.

Remember, applications take time -- early preparation is the key.

Sale and use of VTAs

Kinds of VTAs

There are 3 groups of VTAs:

- unrestricted sale/unrestricted use
- restricted sale/unrestricted use



- restricted sale/restricted use.

The category is determined by MPI during the registration process.

Providing information on labels

VTAs labels should cover information on:

- bait preparation, application directions
- restrictions on use, stock withholding period
- if a Controlled Substances Licence is required
- if the product is to be used only in a suitable bait station.

VTAs must not be used off-label. This is achieved via

- label statements, eg 'By law ...'
- compliance with general and product specific conditions (found on our website).

Best practice in the field

- Place baits away from stock/wild game, pets.
- Use bait stations (if this is a label requirement).
- Comply with conditions of registration (licences, notification, signage, storage).
- Report adverse events to MPI through ACVM-adverseevents@mpi.govt.nz **Use summary**
- Always read the label directions.
- Use VTAs responsibly.
- Ensure compliance with other legislation as well (eg, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, Animal Products Act).
- Knowingly breaching the conditions of registration is an offence under the ACVM Act.