

Inhibitor Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an inhibitor?

An inhibitor in this context is an **agricultural compound** that is intended to decrease the harmful effects agricultural activity can have on the environment or mitigate the effects of climate change.

2. What is an agricultural compound?

An agricultural compound is a term used in the **Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act** that refers to a substance (or mixture of substances) or biological compound intended for use in the indirect or direct management of plants and animals for a range of specified purposes (such as disease or pest management).

Agricultural compounds can be agricultural chemicals (if applied for managing plants or pastures) or veterinary medicines (if applied for managing animals).

3. What is the ACVM Act 1997?

The ACVM Act regulates **agricultural compounds** to manage their risks to public health, animal welfare, agricultural security and trade in primary products. It does this through a registration process administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

4. Why are inhibitors being regulated?

After public consultation in 2021, and with input from industry, Government decided that inhibitors needed stronger regulatory oversight to manage risks associated with public health, trade, animal welfare and agricultural security.

The ACVM Act was considered the best legislation under which to manage these risks.

5. Which types of inhibitors are regulated under the ACVM Act?

The majority of inhibitors regulated under the ACVM Act fall into two types: **Methane inhibitors** and **urease/nitrification inhibitors**.

Any other product with an inhibitor claim will also require registration under the ACVM Act, provided that it is intended to mitigate adverse impacts on the environment or mitigates the effect of climate change in an agricultural system.

6. Do I need to register my inhibitor?

An Order-in-Council commenced on 18 July 2022, listing some inhibitors to be registered under the ACVM Act.

A further amendment to the legislation will bring all inhibitors under the Act.

Until this amendment is made, you should check to see whether your inhibitor is on the **list** or not.

If it is on the list, it will require registration where it is used in or around agricultural plants or animals.

If it's not, and the compound was available on the market at the commencement date of the Order in Council, then it doesn't need to be registered until a year after the ACVM Act is amended. These Q&As will be updated when the amendment date is known, with a confirmed registration deadline.

7. What is the process for registering my inhibitor?

Applicants must submit an application to MPI containing information to support the product's registration.

More information on the process, forms and templates can be found **here**.

8. What happens if my inhibitor is imported, sold, manufactured or used without being registered?

If your inhibitor requires registration under the ACVM Act but is imported, sold, manufactured or used without this, then you may be breaking the law and be subject to criminal proceedings.

9. I only want to conduct trials or research on my inhibitor for now. Do I need an authorisation under the ACVM Act?

This depends on whether your inhibitor is listed on the Order in Council. If so, then authorisation is required. Information on how to gain an authorisation to conduct trials or research for your inhibitor can be found **here**.

10. Does ACVM registration automatically qualify my product for approval under the Greenhouse Gas Inventory?

No, approval under the Greenhouse Gas Inventory is a separate process. You will need to contact the [administrators](#) of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for this.

11. What is the Greenhouse Gas Inventory?

New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory is an accounting and reporting agency for all human-induced emissions and removals of greenhouse gases in New Zealand, including those related to agriculture. It is administered by the Ministry for the Environment. More information can be found [here](#). More information on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory as it relates to agricultural emissions can be found [here](#).

12. My inhibitor has been approved for inclusion on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Do I still need to register my product under the ACVM Act?

Approval under the Greenhouse Gas Inventory is a separate process. If your inhibitor is classed as an agricultural compound, it will also need to be registered under the ACVM Act.

13. Are ACVM requirements the only ones I have to meet?

If your inhibitor is a hazardous substance or new organism as defined in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act you may also need to have it approved by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). You can apply concurrently for ACVM registration and EPA approval, but it is recommended that you communicate with both departments separately and early to understand their requirements. For more information on EPA requirements, see [here](#).