



In view of the updated Government guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this notice has been amended to provide that the VMD has made a final extension to the temporary relaxation of specific provisions of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 as set out below. This relaxation will now last until 31 August 2020 and then cease.

SQP retailer: temporary change of premises

Relaxation of enforcement during COVID-19

Regulations for medicine storage and supply at SQP retailer premises

Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (VMR) – Schedule 3 paragraph 2 and 14. In particular:

Wholesale supply of veterinary medicinal products

2 – (3) If the supply is to a suitably qualified person, it must be to the premises approved in accordance with paragraph 14.

Supply by a suitably qualified person

14 – (4) A suitably qualified person may only supply a veterinary medicinal product classified as POM-VPS, NFA-VPS or AVM-GSL, and may only supply it from—

(a) premises approved by the Secretary of State as being suitable for the storage and supply of veterinary medicinal products by a suitably qualified person;

(...)

During the COVID-19 pandemic

Effective immediately, in view of the unique challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) will adopt the approach set out below to the enforcement of the above requirements until 31 August 2020. In practice, this means that during the current period:

(a) a suitably qualified person (SQP) will be allowed to supply veterinary medicines from temporary premises when access to the SQP retailer premises is limited or no longer possible; and

(b) wholesale dealers will be allowed to supply veterinary medicines to SQPs at such temporary premises.

The VMD will not issue an improvement notice in respect of a breach of paragraph 14(4)(a) of Schedule 3 to the VMR during this period, or an associated breach of paragraph 2(3) to the same Schedule, in cases where the following procedures are observed.

1. Use of temporary premises

- The owner of the SQP retailer must, by email, notify the VMD of the address of the premises they are temporarily working from. This notice must include:

- a. the full address(es) and post code(s);
 - b. the existing SQP retailer registration number;
 - c. details of the storage arrangements for their medicines at the temporary premises.
- Additional information must be provided to the VMD on request.
- Upon receipt of a confirmation email from the VMD which acknowledges receipt of the above information, the SQP retailer may proceed to supply veterinary medicines from the temporary premises.

2. Wholesale dealer deliveries

- An SQP relying on the provisions above must provide the temporary address together with their SQP retailer registration number and the VMD confirmation email referred to above to any wholesale dealer supplying veterinary medicines to the temporary premises. Wholesale dealers may make supplies of veterinary medicines to the temporary address only where they have been given such a notification.

For the avoidance of doubt, the VMR continue to apply. This is a statement of a temporary VMD enforcement policy in relation to specific obligations under the VMR only. The VMD may continue to take action to enforce those obligations in cases where the procedures described above are not followed.

Contact details

To notify the VMD of the temporary address(es), please use the following email address: inspections@vmd.gov.uk.