

AMTRA

NEWS

ANIMAL MEDICINES TRAINING
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING STANDARDS

8 Parsons Hill, Hollesley, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3RB Tel: 01394 - 411010 Fax: 01394 410455

www.amtra.org.uk

info@amtra.org.uk

SQP Renewal Notice for 2007

Your SQP renewal notice for 2007 is also enclosed. Please ensure that you sign this form and return it to AMTRA with your payment before the closing date of 27 November, after which the higher re-instatement fee will be payable.

New Regulations and Code of Practice from 1 October

Revised Regulations governing the prescribing, sale & supply of POM-VPS and NFA-VPS medicines come into force on 1 October 2006 – the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006. A new Code of Practice based on the revised Regulations comes into force on the same date.

A summary of those aspects of the new Regulations as they affect SQPs, together with a copy of the new Code of Practice, are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Legal Defence Insurance

Because of the extra professional responsibilities placed on SQPs as a result of the changes first introduced in 2005, AMTRA has negotiated the possibility of a group legal defence insurance policy that would cover all SQPs. But for it to be taken up it has to cover all SQPs as a group, and it would have to be financed by a levy of approximately £12 on the annual SQP fee – for individual SQPs to buy similar cover would cost over £100 per person. However, the AMTRA Board believes that SQPs must be asked if they want such cover and are prepared to pay this extra sum for it, before AMTRA buys it on behalf of SQPs. Therefore, please answer this question on the renewal form, and if a majority of SQPs agree then it will be included in the future.

Another Chance to Complete an APL

Last year some of you decided not to complete an Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) form to enable you to upgrade your existing SQP qualification by taking a conversion examination before October 2008, and thus remaining on the SQP Register after October 2008. Instead some of you opted to take the so-called retirement option which enables you to renew your SQP status annually until October 2008, after which you will no longer be entitled to renew and remain on the Register. AMTRA had negotiated a large discount on the normal £350 Harper Adams APL fee, and those who completed an APL last year only had to pay £130.

Although that special rate has now lapsed, AMTRA has still managed to negotiate a discount from the standard £350 Harper Adams fee to enable those of you who took the retirement option and did not complete an APL form to change your mind and to complete one after all. The fee for an AMTRA APL is now £230. An APL form can be downloaded from the AMTRA web site <http://www.amtra.org.uk/apl/apl.htm> So if you took the retirement option and want to change your mind, please return a completed APL form, with the APL fee of £230, with your signed renewal form and annual fee to AMTRA.

Conversion Examinations

The vast majority of those of you who completed an APL form have received notification from Harper Adams that it was accepted, and an invitation to apply to take a conversion examination – which must be passed by all SQPs who completed an APL before October 2008 in order to remain on the SQP Register after that date. Only 77 persons who completed an APL have yet to receive notification of acceptance, and this is due in the majority of cases to insufficient information having been provided to Harper Adams to enable them to award the APL. These 77 persons will now be interviewed by Harper Adams academic staff.

The dates and venues for conversion exams are listed on the AMTRA web site, and this is regularly updated as more dates become available see:

http://www.amtra.org.uk/existing_SQPs.html

There have been several conversion exams to date, and all SQPs who have taken one have passed, so do not worry unnecessarily about taking one.

AMTRA is delighted that SAC are now offering dates for conversion examinations in Scotland (Ayr & Aberdeen); and conversion examinations can also be sat in Devon, Shropshire, Yorkshire and Northern Ireland. Although with the numbers involved it will never be possible for everyone to have an examination centre on their doorstep, most of you will have to travel some distance to take the examination, it is nevertheless hoped to add one or two more centres so that the maximum distance that most people would have to travel would be 200 miles.

It is vitally important that you apply to sit the Conversion examination at an early date. If you leave it to the last minute it may not be possible to book a place at one of the last available exams before the deadline.

Student SQPs

Some of you who receive this Newsletter will be student SQPs, or will have employees or colleagues who are student SQPs. One point must be emphasised to all student SQPs. The AMTRA Training Manual is the course. Some SQPs also go on a commercial training course. These courses are designed to supplement home study and are not a substitute for it. It will never be possible for a course lasting a few days to cover everything in the training manual. It is quite possible for some of the examination questions to be on something that a commercial trainer did not cover in their course.

Training Manuals

Persons who enrol with AMTRA as student SQPs automatically receive a Training Manual. However, anyone, including existing SQPs may purchase a new Training Manual. The Merchants' Manual is available at a price of £70 and the Saddlers' Manual at a price of £60, cheques payable to AMTRA. The Training Manual is kept up-to-date and already the legal section is based upon the 2006 Regulations that come into force on 1 October 2006. SQPs will find this Training Manual very useful reference material and excellent revision material for SQP conversion examinations.

Frontline Spot On

As most you now know this previously vet-only flea control medicine has been re-classified NFA-VPS, and you as SQPs can supply it to the general public. Although several factors led to this change, it is a fact that had it not been for AMTRA's efforts on your behalf for over 10 years, that change would not have been made.

Advice from the AMI

“We remind SQPs of the importance of storing vaccines correctly and recording vaccine 'fridge temperatures. Inspectors have recently reported two merchants' premises for incorrect storage of vaccines. At one premise the vaccines were in a broken 'fridge at a temperature of 17.C and in the second they were in a fridge at a temperature of 14.C. In both cases the 'fridge temperatures had not been recorded on a daily basis - in the first case for 5 days and in the second case for 21 days. Consequently, the companies could not demonstrate that the products had been stored properly and so the Inspectors "bonded" the products. A letter was subsequently sent to both companies instructing them to appropriately dispose of the products unless the efficacy of those could be demonstrated (which is unlikely). The value of the vaccines in both cases amount to several thousands of pounds.

“In terms of the Regulations, there is little direct reference to storage of vaccines except (very importantly) Schedule 3 para 9 (4) which relates to the approval of premises and their suitability for the storage and supply of vet medicines. Clearly there is a question mark about the suitability of premises if a company isn't storing vaccines correctly. The Code of Practice with which SQPs must comply, is of course far more prescriptive.”

Stop every Drop Campaign

The following item is written by the authors of the Stop every Drop campaign

The industry led Stop every Drop campaign to reduce pollution incidents from sheep dip was launched at sheep 2006 on 2nd August 2006, the campaign is aimed at providing sheep producers and contractors with best practice guidance notes when it comes to using dips, and disposing of dips and well as flock management to avoid water pollution.

The industry pollution reduction plan requires swift action to halt any further environmental damage being caused by sheep dip. Over the next twelve months the following three actions as a priority:

- *conduct a study to see if cypermethrin-based sheep dip products could be removed from the market without jeopardising animal welfare (led by the EA and VMD); NFU and other industry bodies will be feeding into this report*
- *raise user awareness of the environmental risk associated with use of sheep dip products and ensure farmers and contractors adopt best practice when dipping. This is the STOP every DROP element*
- *Monitor rivers and streams nationally in order to measure the extent of the problem and to provide a baseline against which improvements can be measured (led by the EA). To ensure that the initiative is working*

The STOP every DROP campaign will also be used in conjunction with an industry lead SCAB eradication programme. To Eradicate SCAB we need dips which must be used in an environmentally safe way.



Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep

SCOPS URGES SHEEP FARMERS TO AVOID IMPORTING SHEEP SCAB AND RESISTANT WORMS

Sheep flocks are at their most vulnerable to disease when they are buying in replacements in the autumn. To make sure that neither sheep scab nor resistant worms are imported into your customers flocks, SCOPS recommends the following routine for **ALL** in-coming sheep:

1. **YARD** all sheep (ewes and rams) for 24-48 hours on arrival and check them over carefully.
2. **TREAT** – while yarded, with an injectable macrocyclic lactone + a levamisole (yellow) drench. ***NB Only doramectin is licensed as a one shot treatment for sheep scab. Ivermectin and moxidectin injections require two injections, seven and ten days apart respectively, for the treatment of scab.***

OR

Give both a macrocyclic lactone drench + a levamisole drench (one immediately after the other) and then dip against sheep scab, but remember that most levamisole drenches must not be used within 14 days of an OP dip.

FLUKE -If sheep are coming in from a flukey area then they should also be given a flukicide. The product chosen must kill immature as well as mature fluke.

3. **QUARANTINE** - Turn the sheep out to pasture that ***has carried sheep*** this year so it is contaminated with worms they can pick up. Keep them isolated from the rest of the flock for at least 3 weeks, observing carefully for signs of other potential problems such as CLA, CODD etc.

For more information on SCOPS recommendations visit www.nationalsheep.org