

Module Title:	AMTRA Merchants' SQP
Subject Group:	Animals
Module Author:	CA Ellis
Module Number:	AC021
Credit Value:	30
Level:	Certificate
Pre-requisites:	NONE
Co-requisites:	NONE
Excluded Combinations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMTRA Manufacturers, • AMTRA Saddlers' SQP, • Modules from Harper Adams University College, Animal Course Board courses
Module Approval Date:	January 2006
Start and Expiry Date of Module:	January 2006 – December 2008
Courses for Which Module Validated:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMTRA Professional Short Courses

Rationale and Context:

Animal medicines are vital for the care of domesticated animals, whether on the farm, companion or recreational. These medicinal products are potent materials which need to be treated with respect to ensure that they are used to best effect and without causing harm to the animal, user, consumer or the environment. The manufacture, distribution and importation of medicinal products require an understanding and application of complex laws and regulations derived from the European Community Council Directives. The role of the Nominated Person within an animal health product retail outlet is critical to the safe distribution of animal medicines. The application of legislation coupled with an understanding of animal husbandry and underpinning animal health science are essential in the role is to be undertaken effectively.

This module addresses the college mission in promoting widening participation and the recognition of work related learning through the award of academic credit. It is designed to provide the underpinning knowledge and understanding required by those involved in the role of an animal medicine Suitably Qualified Person (SQP). Following completion of this module successful the candidate will be able to apply knowledge from areas as diverse as legislation, animal physiology & nutrition, infectious diseases, companion animal systems and farm animal systems to the animal medicines industry.

The outcomes outlined below map onto the AMTRA Distributors Training Manual. Candidates successful in the related AMTRA SQP qualification will satisfy the module outcomes.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the legal framework within which an animal medicine distributors business operates
2. Explain basic anatomy and physiology of animals
3. Outline the principal production systems and terminology used in the livestock industry
4. Apply the principles of good merchandising practice as set out in the Code of Practice
5. Apply an understanding of animal health to the sale and supply of animal health products

Indicative Content:

Legal framework: Medicines Act, Medicines (Exemptions for Merchants in veterinary Drugs) Order 1998, Veterinary Surgeons Act 1996, AMTRA Code of Practice, Poisons Regulations, Medicated Feedstuffs regulations, Feedstuffs (Zootechnological Products) Regulations Health and Safety at Work regulations.

Anatomy and Physiology: body systems including basic anatomy, circulatory, respiratory, digestive and defensive systems also basic animal nutrition and its influence on good health in farm animals, companion animals and equine.

Animal Husbandry: Basic terminology, main production systems employed in UK the livestock industry, husbandry and care of companion animals and equids, including environmental requirements and animal health and welfare.

Good Merchandising Practice: stock rotation, audit and record keeping, product labelling, storage requirements, disposal procedures and health and safety requirements.

Animal Health: Signs of good health, Causes of disease, methods of transmission, disease prevention, the operation of the immune system, parasitology, causes of nutritional disorder, notifiable diseases and the administration of animal medicine. Preventative medicine strategy and health plans.

Learning and Teaching Strategy:

- *Nature of student support*

Candidates for the AMTRA SQP examination are provided with a comprehensive training manual which forms the basis of the student support for the learning outcomes outlined above. This is augmented by the provision of tuition devised to address all areas of the module. Candidates will normally be employed in the animal health industry, within the distributor sector. Alternatively, candidates will have experience of production agriculture and/or be involved in the retail sector of the agriculture supply industry. Where neither of these prior experiences pertain, evidence of other relevant experience will be expected. Whilst these prior experiences are not essential they will be a valuable asset in the pursuance of the module outcomes. Tuition will be in the form of small group delivery (normally less than 20 candidates in a group) supported by farm classes, tutorials and practical classes. Due to the mix of experiences found within groups the opportunity to meet in informal groups, provide valuable learning support in this module.

- *Pattern of study including links to other module delivery*

This course will normally be delivered in the form of a short course, of five day duration. An assignment will be set on registration. This assignment will be critical in enabling the candidates to apply their knowledge and understanding to a real case study.

- *Variations for different course groups*

It is not required that the candidates undertake formal tuition to achieve the module outcome. Candidates with greater experience may elect to study at a distance by means of the study pack. Employers may in some cases provide assistance in preparation for the assessment. The study pack will cover all elements of the module and include an assignment brief and study guidance.

Assessment Strategy:

- *Assessment format*

The assessment will have three elements:

- **Case Study assignment (50%)**, in the form of a 2500-3000 word case study report base on an animal enterprise requiring the candidates to analyse the current health plan, devise and evaluate a plan of their own that addresses the needs of the unit within the context of the prevailing legal requirements. These projects are marked by a HAUC Internal Examiner.
- **Written Examination (50%)**, two hours in duration. Section A will be in the form of a series of short question ranging across the module content. There will be a compulsory 'Legislation' question requiring the candidates to demonstrate an

ability to apply their knowledge and understanding of the legislation to the demands of the SQP. These examinations are marked by a HAUC Internal Examiner

- **Oral Examination (AMTRA requirement)**, assessing the ability of the candidates to apply their knowledge and understanding within the industry context. These orals will be conducted by experienced examiners from AMTRA but do not contribute to the mark but must be satisfactorily completed.

- *Outcomes assessed*

The case study will focus on outcome 5 will also address elements of outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 4. The written examination will address all outcomes. The oral examination will cover all areas of the module. Harper Adams University College degree grade scheme will be employed for this module.

- *Timing*

The assignment will be submitted two weeks prior to the start of the second part of the course. The two parts of the course will, normally, be no less than six weeks apart. The written examination and the oral will follow the second part of the course. Where students choose to study at a distance, they will be expected to submit the report no less than two weeks prior to the end of module examination. Such deadlines will form part of the learning contract.

Essential Reading:

AMTRA (2003). AMTRA Merchants' SQP Training Manual. AMTRA

AMTRA (no date). AMTRA Code of Practice for the Sale and Supply of Animal Medicine. AMTRA.

Head of Group Approval: Carwyn A Ellis

10/01/06