List of antimicrobials reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans

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The antimicrobials listed (antibiotics, antivirals, antiprotozoals) can only be for human use and must not be used on food-producing animals

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1255 of 19 July 2022 designating antimicrobials or groups of antimicrobials reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Update

The EU published the list of antimicrobials (antibiotics, antivirals, and antiprotozoals) that must be limited to human use and cannot be used on animals. From 3 September 2026, only foods produced from animals that have never been treated with these substances will be authorized to be exported to the EU (see Rules on prohibited antimicrobials in imported animal products).

What is changing?

The EU now prohibits the use in food-producing animals of the substances listed in Table 1.

Why?

Antimicrobial resistance is viewed as a major threat to global health. The EU seeks to limit the use of certain drugs to treat humans, to ensure their continued efficiency. This is consistent with the EU's One Health Approach: "antimicrobial management in one sector may affect antimicrobial resistance in the other sectors" [Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1760, recital (2)].

Timeline

The list applies from 9 February 2023 for food of animal origin produced in the EU and from 3 September 2026 for food of animal origin exported from non-EU countries to the EU (Regulation 2023/905).

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What are the major implications for exporting countries?

If these antimicrobials are used in exporting countries in food-producing animals (or their products) intended for export to the EU, their use must be identified and replaced by alternatives.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of animals and of foods of animal origin must ensure that foods that enter the EU from 3 September 2026 are produced from animals that have not been treated with one of the listed antimicrobial treatments (even for medical use).

Background

In the framework of the fight against antimicrobial resistance, Regulation (EU) 2019/6 sets a range of concrete measures to fight antimicrobial resistance and to promote more prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial medicinal products in animals, including very strict rules on their veterinary prescription for prophylactic and metaphylactic use. That Regulation also states that antimicrobial medicinal products should not be administered routinely, or used to compensate for poor hygiene, inadequate animal husbandry, lack of care or poor farm management. Art. 118(1) foresees that the obligation will also apply to foods of animal origin exported to the EU.

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1760 establishes criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans. Based on these criteria, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1255 now lays down this list of antimicrobials.

Sources

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1255

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
List of antimicrobials reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans

Antibiotics	Antivirals	Antiprotozoals
Carbapenems	Amantadine	Nitazoxanide
Carboxypenicillins	Baloxavir marboxil	
Ceftobiprole	Celgosivir	
Ceftaroline	Favipiravir	
Combinations of cephalosporins with beta-lactamase inhibitors	Galidesivir	
Eravacycline	Lactimidomycin	
Galidesivir	Laninamivir	
Glycopeptides	Methisazone/metisazone	
Glycylcyclines	Molnupiravir	
Lipopeptides	Nitazoxanide	
Monobactams	Oseltamivir	
Omadacycline	Peramivir	
Oxazolidinones	Ribavirin	
Penems	Rimantadine	
Phosphonic acid derivates	Tizoxanide	
Plazomicin	Triazavirin	
Siderophore cephalosporins	Umifenovir	
Ureidopenicillins	Zanamivir	

Source: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1255, Annex

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