**There is a lot of confusion on what legal products we can use to treat our bees. Below is a summary of what we can use up to date (May 2014).I have put in the**

* **Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) 2013**
* **The list of products you can use**
* **A list of products you can use from abroad.**
* **What is illegal to use in the UK**

**Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) 2013**

The VMR state that if an animal or animal product is to be put into the human food chain, then:

* only authorised veterinary medicinal products can be administered in accordance with the label instructions should be used;
* Products administered in accordance with an animal test certificate may be used.

**Honey bees are classed as a food producing animal and therefore beekeepers must comply with these regulations. Generic substances such as Oxalic acid or self-made Thymol solutions should not be used and beekeepers are liable for prosecution if traces are found during routine honey sampling. It is important to note that some products available on beekeeping manufacturer’s websites are not registered medicinal products and although available, should not be used.**

**Authorised products**

A list of authorised medicines for honey bees can be found on the '[Product Information Database](http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Default.aspx)' on the VMD website. To find products relating to bees only, use the [product search facility](http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Search.aspx) and select 'bees' from the species drop down box.

Currently, there are no UK registered oxalic acid treatments for honey bees. However, beekeepers are able to apply for EU approved medicines which are available in EU Member States through a Special Import Certificate (SIC). There are a two registered oxalic acid medicines available to beekeepers and a list of products available under this scheme can be found [here](http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/public/bee_authorised.aspx).

Api-Bioxal is a registered oxalic acid treatment in Italy and Ecoxal is a registered oxalic acid treatment in Spain. These are both available under the scheme and you can either ask your local vet whether they take part in the scheme or you can buy Api - Bioxal directly from [Bee Vet](http://www.bee-vet.co.uk/).

To view a list of veterinary surgeons with knowledge in apiculture, click [here](https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/downloadDocument.cfm?id=354).

**Medicine record card**

The beekeeper must keep the documentation containing details of a veterinary medicinal product and the records relating to the product for at least five years following the administration or other disposal of the product, irrespective of whether or not the colony concerned is no longer in that keeper’s possession or has died during that period.

When a veterinary medicinal product is bought beekeepers must, at the time, record:

(a) the name of the product and the batch number;
(b) the date of acquisition;
(c) the quantity acquired; and
(d) the name and address of the supplier.

When administering the medicine, beekeepers must record on a medicine record card:

(a) the name of the product;
(b) the date of administration;
(c) the quantity administered;
(d) the withdrawal period; and
(e) the identification of the animals treated.

A beekeeper who disposes of any or all of the veterinary medicinal product other than by
treating a colony must record:

(a) the date of disposal;
(b) the quantity of product involved; and
(c) how and where it was disposed of.

**This is what we can use legally in the UK.**

**Apiguard Gel 25% Thymol**

**Apilife Var Bee-Hive Strip Camphor Racemic, Eucalyptus Oil, Menthol Levo, Thymol**

**Apistan 10.3% w/w Bee Hive Strip Tau Fluvalinate**

**Bayvarol 3.6 mg Bee-hive Strips  Flumethrin**

**MAQS Formic Acid 68.2g Beehive Strips  Formic Acid**

**Thymovar 15 g Bee-hive Strips Thymol**

The products below can be used in the UK, but are only available on prescription from a vet with a Special Import Certificate (SIC).

Api-Bioxal is a registered oxalic acid treatment in Italy and Ecoxal is a registered oxalic acid treatment in Spain. These are both available under the scheme and you can either ask your local vet whether they take part in the scheme or you can buy Api - Bioxal directly from [Bee Vet](http://www.bee-vet.co.uk/) who will ask you to register with them ask you a few questions and then let you have it. Really strange as with oxalic acid you can buy it anywhere but cannot use it unless you register with a vet with a Special Import Certificate (SIC).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Product** | **Active Substance** | **Manufacturer** | **Pharmaceutical Form** | **Imported From** |
| **Checkmite + \*** | **Coumaphos** | **Bayer Animal Health** | **Impregnated Strips** | **Greece** |
| **Apivar** | **Amitraz** | **Veto-Pharma SA** | **Impregnated Strips** | **France** |
| **Formidol** | **Formic Acid** | **Bee Research Institute** | **Evaporative Board** | **Czech Republic** |
| **Ecoxal** | **Oxalic Acid** | **Ceva Salud Animale SA** | **Powder** | **Spain** |
| **API-Bioxal** | **Oxalic Acid Dihydrate** | **Chemicals Laif** | **Powder** | **Italy** |

* **What is illegal to use in the UK**

**Any other product that is not listed above is illegal and if a government official finds any residues of any other product in your hives you could be in trouble.**

**It’s all a bit confusing really as some member states of the EEC can use stuff that we can’t use. We are all supposed to be in it together so why this is so is a bit of a mystery.**

**Also most of the products that are allowed are made by the big pharmaceutical companies who love to control the market and are not interested in products such as Oxalic Acid, which do knock down Varroa, but would not make them any money.**

**You would think that the legislation would be about protecting the bees and not the big pharmaceutical companies, but I afraid it does not seem the case.**

**But the law states that**

**Generic substances such as Oxalic acid or self-made Thymol solutions should not be used and beekeepers are liable for prosecution if traces are found during routine honey sampling. It is important to note that some products available on beekeeping manufacturer’s websites are not registered medicinal products and although available, should not be used.**

**So to summarise.**

**You can buy and use all the products in table 1 without getting into trouble with the Law**

**You can buy and use the products in Table 2 if you buy from a vet** **with a Special Import Certificate (SIC).**

**If you use any products from table 1 and 2 you must fill in a medical records for as stated in the**

**Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) 2013**

**A good supplier of medicines from a registered vet is from.**

**The BeeVet**

**At**

**Contact**

For bee medicines enquiries please call us on **01392 872887**

or email us at **info@bee-vet.co.uk**

You will have to register with them before you can buy anything.

All very confusing and complicated but we must remember we have to protect the companies who make these products as we as beekeepers know bugger all about anything. And like the old saying goes, more wants more.

**Michael and Bob**