

Whitbread Antibiotics Policy

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Reference	Issue Number	Owner	Authorised By	Issue Date	Page Number	Review By
Antibiotics Policy	1	R. Healey	T. Lowe	Sept 2025	Page 1 of 4	September 2026

WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:

- All suppliers of Whitbread primary protein.

WHO WILL APPLY THIS POLICY:

- Whitbread Procurement team
- Whitbread Technical Team and their SME Contractors
- Whitbread Sustainability team
- Whitbread Suppliers and Wholesalers

WHITBREAD INTENT

Animal welfare is a fundamental part of our Force for Good program. We believe responsible welfare practices are not only expected by our guests but are the right thing to do. We select and work with suppliers who share our commitment to best practice and continuous improvement in animal welfare standards.

It is our expectation that animals are always provided with the appropriate veterinary care as often as needed but medicines including antibiotics will only be used where absolutely necessary to ensure good health and welfare.

We advocate the responsible use of antibiotics at farm level and expect our suppliers to focus on preventative health strategies such as maintaining high standards of animal husbandry, hygiene, improved biosecurity and comprehensive vaccination plans. We also require them to work closely with vets to develop responsible treatment plans.

We embed our antibiotics policy into supplier terms of business and ensure performance is actively measured, monitored, and improved where needed.

SCOPE

We implement this policy with all suppliers of primary protein for supply into the UK and Ireland. It applies to beef, pork, lamb, broilers, ducks, turkeys, eggs, liquid dairy, wild caught fish and aquaculture.

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POLICY REQUIREMENTS

All suppliers must ensure adherence to **The Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/6)** with specific regards to those measures designed to ensure prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in animals, including reserving certain antimicrobials for the treatment of infections in people. This legislation became applicable in full as of January 28, 2022.

Only medicines licensed for use in UK and EU may be used.

All statutory withdrawal periods must be observed prior to slaughter or placing milk/eggs on market for consumption.

Where there is no suitable veterinary medicine authorised in territory for the specific condition in the animal being treated; to avoid unacceptable suffering, suppliers are permitted to access clinical judgement to treat in accordance with The Cascade. The rationale for product choice must be evidenced and the default withdrawal period must be observed as a minimum (but withdrawal may be subject to extension based on veterinary recommendation).

The minimum statutory withdrawal periods are:

- 7 days for eggs and milk.
- 28 days for meat, including fat and offal from poultry and mammals.
- 500-degree days for fish.

Whitbread suppliers must **not permit prophylactic use** of antibiotics within their supply chains as per The Veterinary Medicines (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2024.

Preventative treatments are only acceptable when they are:

- To treat animals diagnosed at high risk of bacterial disease,
- Prescribed by vets who have direct responsibility for those animals,
- Not** be applied systematically or routinely,
- Not** used as compensation for poor hygiene or in place of improvements in husbandry which could reduce the need for treatment.

Preventative treatments should be administered to individual animals where possible, except in species which cannot be treated individually without stress or harm, and where group treatment is in accordance with veterinary best practice.

Suppliers must ensure that highest priority critically important antibiotics (HP-CIAs), defined by EMA as Category B (3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, quinolones including fluoroquinolones, and colistin) are only used:

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- i) as a last resort to treat clinically present disease, never preventatively
- ii) when needed to safeguard animal health and welfare
- iii) when no alternative treatment option is available
- iv) when it is known the treatment will be effective

The lack of alternative treatment options and efficacy of choice must be evidenced through Sensitivity and/or MIC (minimum inhibitory concentration) testing. HP-CIA's must only be used where there is no other effective treatment choice and not simply that they are likely to be effective.

Animals are always provided with the appropriate veterinary care when needed, but medicines including antibiotics will only be used where it is absolutely necessary to ensure good health and welfare. Our species policies outline our approach to antibiotic usage dependant on their specific requirements. With these, we are committed to reducing the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HPClAs).

We expect suppliers to have monitoring and governance processes in place to demonstrate these requirements are being met.

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