Questions & Answers on licence DIR 224 – Commercial supply of genetically modified (GM) multivalent vaccine (Innovax®-ND-ILT) for chickens

What does this licence allow?

Intervet Australia Pty Ltd has received approval under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* for commercial supply of a genetically modified (GM) multivalent vaccine for chickens. The GM vaccine, known as Innovax®-ND-ILT, prevents common infectious diseases in chickens. The vaccine will be manufactured overseas and imported into Australia. The vaccination may take place at chicken farms throughout Australia.

What diseases do the vaccines protect against?

The GM vaccine protects chickens from Marek's disease, Newcastle disease and infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT). These are highly infectious viral diseases that have significant impacts on poultry industry.

How has the GM vaccine been made?

The GM vaccine is based on a turkey herpesvirus (HVT) which has been modified by the insertion of the fusion protein gene from the Newcastle disease virus and glycoproteins gD and gI genes from the ILT virus. The HVT strain used is non-pathogenic to all known susceptible avian species and does not infect humans and other animals; however, it prevents Marek's disease. Due to the inserted genes, the vaccine is expected to also induce immunity against Newcastle disease and ILT.

What other regulatory processes apply to this commercial release?

Veterinary products must comply with requirements of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

What controls are proposed for this release?

The licence is for an ongoing commercial supply. The Regulator has not imposed specific measures to manage risk, as the risk assessment concluded that this release of the GMO poses negligible risks to the health and safety of people or the environment. General conditions have been imposed to ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the DIR 224 page of the OGTR website or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the finalised Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), a summary of the RARMP and the licence.

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