

TESCO EXTERNAL POLICY

Title: Tesco Antibiotic Policy

No:10001

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Policy Statement

This policy outlines Tesco UK antibiotic use commitments and applies to **Tesco UK Own Label where product is Tesco Welfare Approved**.

Scope: Own Label (*Tesco Own Brand*)

Business Unit	Business Area Main Area/Sub Area
United Kingdom & ROI	Food: Agriculture

Table of Contents

1. Purpose & Scope.....	1
2. Policy Details	1
3. Roles and Responsibilities	3
4. Glossary	3

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy outlines Tesco antibiotic use commitments and applies to all Tesco Welfare Approved (TWA) product supply chains that supply into Tesco UK and ROI. Compliance is assessed at TWA audits.

2. Policy Details

Tesco is a member of the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials ([FIIA](#)) which has the stated vision of '*retailers, manufacturers, processors and food service companies coming together to promote and support responsible antibiotic use and action on antimicrobial resistance*'. The intention of this initiative is to

support and engage with existing industry groups working in this area, ensuring work is aligned and duplication of effort avoided.

FIIA has 3 key areas of focus: Responsible Use, Research and Development and Data. Further information can be found at www.fiiainc.org.uk.

Tesco's own antibiotic use commitments were developed and published in 2017 to ensure responsible antibiotic use is a key area of focus for our supply chains. These commitments were developed with our supply chain and industry experts and align with FIIA commitments to support a common approach to embedding and evidencing responsible use principles throughout each protein supply chain.

1. Our priorities: We restrict the use of the highest priority "critically important" antibiotics for human health (fluoroquinolones, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins and colistin) as defined by the [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#) in our supply chain and make sure these antibiotics are used only as a treatment of last resort, where no other viable treatment is available to prevent animal welfare issues. We are working with our suppliers to reduce the use of other critically important antibiotics, including macrolides.
2. We work with our suppliers to make sure there is no unauthorised use of veterinary medicines, including antibiotics, in our supply chains.
3. We do not allow the routine use of antibiotics for prophylactic purposes in our supply chains. Preventative treatment is only allowed where animals are diagnosed at high risk of bacterial disease and this must only occur under prescription by a veterinarian based on epidemiological and clinical knowledge in line with guidance issued by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance ([RUMA](#)).
4. We measure antibiotic use in our supply chains and have made reviewing antibiotic usage records a key feature of our TWA audit programme. Visibility of records of any antibiotic usage within farms supplying Tesco UK is required to enable us to monitor levels of use and to help target reduction strategies.
5. We implement the UK species-specific targets for antibiotic reduction (as defined and updated by RUMA and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (www.ruma.org.uk) in our supply chain. Since 2018, we have worked with the supply base to ensure usage does not exceed sector targets based on species-specific data sets collated in the intervening periods.
6. We will help build farmers' capability on responsible antibiotic use and animal health in our supply chain, to help them to reduce use without compromising animal welfare. We will work with suppliers

and other bodies to identify the right educational approaches and the best ways to share this knowledge among farmers.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Sustainable Agriculture Managers	Ensure compliance through TWA audit programme
TWA suppliers	Ensure they are aligned to the commitments of the policy and any farms supplying TWA product are compliant

4. Glossary

Acronym	Definition
AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
EMA	European Medicines Agency
FIIA	Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials
RUMA	Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance
TWA	Tesco Welfare Approved