Questions & Answers on licence application DIR 224 – Commercial supply of a genetically modified (GM) multivalent vaccine for chickens

What is this application for?

Intervet Australia Pty Ltd is seeking approval for the commercial supply of a genetically modified (GM) multivalent vaccine for chickens. The GM vaccine, known as Innovax-ND-ILT, will be manufactured overseas and imported into Australia. The proposed vaccination would take place at chicken farms throughout Australia and would be ongoing from the date of issue of the licence.

How has the GM vaccine been made?

The GM vaccine is based on a turkey herpesvirus 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 infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) virus. The turkey herpesvirus 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 is the purpose of the commercial supply?

The commercial supply of the GM vaccine is for the vaccination of chickens to protect them from common infectious diseases, including Marek's disease, Newcastle disease and ILT infection.

What is the process for considering this application?

The licence application will be subject to comprehensive, science-based risk analysis. The process includes two rounds of stakeholder consultation. In the first round, the Regulator will seek advice from prescribed experts, agencies and authorities prior to preparing a draft Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP). The RARMP focuses on identifying risks to people and to the environment that may be posed by the commercial release. Following public release of the draft RARMP, submissions will again be sought from stakeholders, this time including the public. The RARMP will then be finalised taking into account submissions received, and inform the Regulator's decision whether or not to issue a licence.

How can I comment on this application?

The consultation version of the RARMP for this application is expected to be released for public comment in **August 2026**. Its release will be advertised in newspapers, and it will be available on the OGTR website along with a range of supporting information. While comment is not being sought from the public at this stage, you can obtain a copy of the full application by contacting the OGTR. Please quote the application number DIR 224. A summary of the application is available on the OGTR website or by contacting the OGTR.

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