

**[ DOA JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2, S.  
2000, August 17, 2000 ]**

**DECLARING A BAN/PHASE OUT OF THE USE OF NITROFURANS  
IN FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS**

The Nitrofurans is a group of synthetic antibacterial compounds that have a broad spectrum of activity, being of value against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial infections. Nitrofurans use today is mainly on topical preparations preparations for the eye, ear, mucous membranes and skin; with a limited use in treating bacterial gastro-intestinal and urinary tract disorders. The major disadvantage of nitrofurans to treat systematic infections is that the concentrations needed to reach the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) also induce systematic toxicity.

There have been many reports in the veterinary literature on the toxicities induced when the nitrofurans are used systematically. The toxicity of Furazolidone has been investigated extensively in laboratory, food and companion animals as well as in human and has recently been reviewed. Toxic signs seen with extensive doses of nitrofurans derivatives include central nervous system involvement (excitement, tremors, convulsions, peripheral neuritis), gastrointestinal disturbances, poor weight gain and depression of spermatogenesis. Various sensitivity reactions can also occur. Furazolidone has also been demonstrated to be carcinogenic when used at 0.15% w/ concentration in feed for one year, including mammary tumors in dose-related manner.

Nitrofurans has been recognized by the Food and Drug Administration in United States as both a mutagen and a carcinogen and can no longer be used in the USA since 1991. In Germany, the Federal Health Office has announced that it has withdrawn approvals for veterinary products containing nitrofurans except furazolidone for food producing animals.

On the basis of the European Commission Regulations 2901/93 of 18 October 1993 and 2377/90 of 26 June 1990 on the establishment of a community procedure for the stipulation of maximum permissible concentrations for veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin, all nitrofurans except furazolidone were included in the list of pharmacologically active substances for which no maximum permissible concentrations can be stipulated. Nitrofurazone and Furazolidone are banned for use on food-producing animals and are not longer available as feed additives in the USA.

On account of these new evidences, the Subcommittee on Veterinary Drugs of the National Drug Committee of the Department of Health therefore concludes that the nitrofurans should be banned for use in food producing animals and should no longer be used as feed additives.