

**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND
COCOA AFFAIRS

ON

**DIRECTIVE C/DIR.1/11/10 ON ECOWAS VETERINARY
PHARMACY ON QUALITY CONTROL**

January 2018

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CONTROL**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 75(2) of the 1992 Constitution, the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. William Agyapong Quaitoo on behalf of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Dr Owusu Afriyie Akoto, on 13th June, 2017 laid before the House, the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on Ecowas Veterinary Pharmacy on quality control.

Pursuant to Standing Order 176 of the Parliament of Ghana, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Mike Aaron Oquaye referred the Directive to the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the following to discuss the provisions in the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on Ecowas Veterinary Pharmacy on quality control:

- a. Hon. William Agyapong Quaitoo - Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture,
- b. Dr. Kingsley M. Aryee - Deputy Director Veterinary Services Directorate
- c. Mr. Emmanuel Eshun - Chief Animal Health Officer (MOFA)
- d. Mr. George A. Sarpong - Legal Consultant (MOFA)
- e. Dr. Anthony Akunzule - Deputy Director (MOFA)

The Committee is grateful to them for the invaluable contributions they made during the discussions.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the following documents during deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament of Ghana

- iii. Cabinet memorandum on the ratification and gazetting of the Directive C/DIR.1/11/10 on Ecowas Veterinary Pharmacy on Quality Control
- iv. Memorandum from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the ratification of Directive C/DIR.1/11/10 on Ecowas Veterinary Pharmacy on Quality Control
- v. The Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on Ecowas Veterinary Pharmacy
- vi. The ECOWAS Agricultural Policy
- vii. Revised ECOWAS Treaty on Agricultural Development and Food Security
- viii. Disease and Animals Act, 1961 (Act 83)

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The major post-independence piece of legislation that governs animal health is the Diseases of Animal Act, 1961 (Act 83) which consolidates with amendments, the enactments that provide for the prevention and control of the spread of infectious and contagious diseases among animals. Act 83 does not however cover veterinary drugs and biologics. It has therefore created a gap in addressing issues regarding veterinary drugs and biologics. There are also disparities in veterinary laws implemented by countries in the West African sub-region.

Having recognised the fundamental importance of inputs to the immense increase in agricultural production, Heads of States and Governments in the ECOWAS in 2008, approved a number of regional agricultural directives and regulations designed to facilitate the implementation of ECOWAS agricultural policy adopted in Accra, Ghana in 2005.

5.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE DIRECTIVE

The general objectives of the Directive are to:

- a. Define community procedures for management of Veterinary Drugs and Biologics
- b. Enforce guidelines using the Terrestrial Animals Code of the World Health Organisation
- c. Prescribe and describe the procedures and rules that Member States shall enforce in the areas of control of import and export, movement and marketing, retail and whole sale of veterinary drugs in the ECOWAS Region.
- d. Authorisation to Market, import and intra-community movement

- e. Manufacture, wholesale distribution, import and export of veterinary drugs and biologics
- f. Medical Feeds
- g. Extemporaneous preparation, retail, sale and distribution of veterinary drugs and biologics
- h. Control and Inspection of Veterinary drugs and biologics and
- i. Provisional and final arrangements for reporting to the ECOWAS Commission.

6.0 JUSTIFICATION

Governments are currently employing different policies, laws, regulations, and procedures where they exist, to promote and regulate the veterinary drugs and biologics sector. Through organisations such as the ECOWAS, consented efforts are being made to rationalize and harmonize these national policies, laws, regulations and procedures within the sub-region. Many countries are now drafting new laws or revising existing legislations to align with the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS on Veterinary Pharmacy.

At the Sixty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Agricultural Ministers of ECOWAS Member States, held in Abuja, Nigeria on 25th and 26th November 2010, it was agreed that the ECOWAS directives on harmonisation of the rules governing quality control, certification and marketing of veterinary drugs and biologics in ECOWAS Sub-region be published in Member States' official Gazettes.

The regulation shall enter into force upon its publication by each Member State in its National Gazette as indicated in Article 64 of the Regulations.

7.0 STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Seven (7) countries namely Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo within the sub region have gazetted the harmonized directives on Veterinary drugs and biologics quality control. Ghana, Niger and Gambia are in the process of gazetted the harmonized directives. Ghana being a dualist State can only get its harmonized regulations gazetted after parliamentary approval of the Directives.

8.0 BENEFITS

The Directive if implemented, would benefit Ghana in several ways which are:

- i. Ensuring uniform procedure for the management of veterinary drugs and biologics
- ii. Use of WTO guidelines in the enforcement of guidelines
- iii. Control of intra-community movement of veterinary drugs and biologics
- iv. Supervision and control of manufacture, wholesale distribution of veterinary drugs and biologics

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee after careful consideration of the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS Veterinary Pharmacy made the following observations and recommendations:

- a. It was observed that the Directive was presented to the Sixth Parliament of the Fourth Republic but was not approved before its dissolution in January 2017. However Cabinet has given a new approval to ensure that the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS Veterinary Pharmacy is passed. The Committee recommends that in future the Ministry should ensure that they present such regional agreements to the House on time to ensure timeous approval and implementation.
- b. It was realised that seven countries including Sierra Leone, Mali, Senegal, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire and Burkina Faso have already gazetted and harmonised their directives on the Veterinary and biologics control. It is therefore incumbent on Ghana to do same to ensure that a harmonious regime of the ECOWAS directive on veterinary drugs and biologics is realised. The Committee therefore recommends that the House approves the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS Veterinary Pharmacy to ensure that Ghana benefits from the provisions in the Directive.
- c. It was again realised that the Diseases of Animals Act, 1961 is out dated and is not in conformity with most of the provisions made under the Directive. It is therefore

recommended that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should ensure that an amendment bill is brought to the House for approval immediately after the approval of this Directive.

- d. It was further realised that the Veterinary Services Directorate is not very well resourced in terms of personnel to carry out the provisions of the Directives. The Committee therefore recommends that the Veterinary Services Directorate should be given approval to engage the requisite personal to make the Directives beneficial to Ghana.

10.0 CONCLUSION

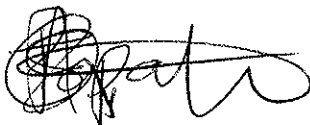
The provisions in the Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS Veterinary Pharmacy will be of great benefit to Ghana in general and the veterinary sector in particular. The Committee therefore recommends to the House the adoption of its report and the ratification of Directive C/DIR1/11/10 on ECOWAS Veterinary Pharmacy.

Respectfully Submitted



HON. KWAME ASAFU-ADJEI
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS



MS ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO
CLERK,

COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS

