

Statement from a spokesperson for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority:

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is the independent authority responsible for assessing and registering agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals proposed for supply and use in Australia.

The APVMA regulates agvet chemical products up to – and including – the point of retail sale.

Individual state or territory regulators are responsible for control of use, which includes the monitoring of antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance in Australian agriculture.

Monitoring of residue levels of agvet chemicals in food is conducted by the [National Residue Survey](#) (NRS) within the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (in the Health portfolio) has responsibility for food standards.

Generally, the APVMA will not approve 'growth promotion' claims for antibiotics, particularly those that belong to classes of critical importance to human medicine. The APVMA completed its [review of macrolide antibiotics](#) in 2018, requiring the removal of all product claims and associated use instructions for growth promotion and improved feed conversion for products containing tylosin, kitasamycin and oleandomycin that were registered for growth promotion in food-producing animals.

Ionophores (such as monensin and salinomycin) are the only antimicrobials currently approved by the APVMA for use as growth promotants in food-producing animals. These products are generally used to control infections with coccidial parasites, and to assist in the management of digestive issues through modifying the fermentation occurring in the rumen, but also have some antibacterial activity. Ionophores have a very different mode of action from therapeutic antibiotics. The most recent NRS datasets do not show any detections of monensin and salinomycin at levels above the maximum residue limit.