DAHD

DAHD sets out when veterinary products need its NOC

DAHD's SOP for its ECAH Subcommittee lists when veterinary vaccines, drugs and devices referred by CDSCO need a DAHD NOC, and sets indicative timelines.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has published a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Subcommittee under its Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH). The Subcommittee examines proposals that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) refers to DAHD on veterinary drugs, vaccines and biologicals including in vitro diagnostic (IVD) kits, and medical devices; DAHD then gives technical advice or a No Objection Certificate (NOC) where one is required. The document carries no date, number or signature; DAHD posted it on its website on September 24, 2026. The SOP says CDSCO is the statutory licensing authority under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945, and that DAHD's role is "purely advisory". The Animal Husbandry Commissioner chairs the Subcommittee, with members from ICAR, CDSCO, the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission and the Livestock Health Division and four to five experts; its quorum is five members.

KEY FACTS

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Standard Operating Procedure for the Subcommittee under the Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH), with no number or signature

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A DAHD NOC is mandatory for vaccines and biologicals with a new strain or new source, a new manufacturing technology (live, inactivated, recombinant, vectored, r-DNA, sub-unit), genetically modified or recombinant products, and a new combination or new formulation, even if the individual strains were approved earlier. For drugs it is mandatory for new chemical entities, new formulations with safety or efficacy implications, a new route of administration and first-time use in food-producing animals. For medical devices it covers devices not previously examined for veterinary use in India, devices involving new or modified technology affecting safety or usability, and devices with potential implications for biosafety or animal welfare. No NOC is required for the same strain from the same approved source, generics of approved veterinary drugs, devices with approved predicates, or existing indications, unless there is a new species or a major change.

Firms apply only to CDSCO, through the SUGAM portal. CDSCO forwards the proposal to DAHD online, through SUGAM or NANDI, or, in exceptional cases, by official email with a checklist, and must say whether a DAHD NOC is required and on which points DAHD's inputs are sought. The applicant uploads the full dossier with its SUGAM credentials, and DAHD checks it for completeness within 5 working days. If it is incomplete, the applicant has 10 working days to comply, DAHD re-examines the reply within 3 working days, and processing timelines start only once the complete dossier is received. Each complete proposal gets a registration number; new cases go on the agenda at least 10 days before a meeting, and deferred cases at least 5 days before. The Subcommittee meets preferably on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, or on the next working day after a holiday, and the applicant takes part only for its own agenda item.

The Subcommittee may recommend an NOC, recommend it with conditions, defer the proposal for the firm's comments or a research institute's expert opinion, reject it, or seek more expert opinion. Draft minutes follow within 5 working days, and DAHD sends an NOC, conditional NOC,

observations or rejection to CDSCO within 30 days from receipt of the complete dossier. The time charter in Annexure I calls these timelines indicative: any request for clarification, more data or expert opinion pauses the clock; the time the applicant takes to meet deficiencies or send more data, holidays, force majeure and circumstances beyond DAHD's control are left out of the count; and the timelines are "for internal administrative guidance only" and not enforceable as a legal right. Decisions are communicated only through CDSCO, with no public disclosure.

The SOP states that a DAHD NOC "is not a statutory licence and does not substitute CDSCO approval"; in its flow chart, CDSCO takes the final licensing decision. Annexures II to V are checklists for drugs and vaccines, for CDSCO's referral, and for imported veterinary IVD kits and medical devices, and Annexure VI is a template for the minutes. The SOP does not say when it takes effect, how it applies to proposals already referred, or whether DAHD charges a fee.

Issued by	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Document	Standard Operating Procedure for the Subcommittee under the Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH), with no number or signature
Dated	No date printed; DAHD posted it on September 24, 2026
Applies to	Proposals CDSCO refers to DAHD on veterinary drugs, vaccines and biologicals including IVD kits, and medical devices
How to apply	To CDSCO only, through the SUGAM portal
Completeness check	Within 5 working days; deficiencies met within 10 working days; re-examination within 3 working days
Meetings	Preferably the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month; quorum of five members
Decision to CDSCO	Within 30 days from receipt of the complete dossier, an indicative timeline
Chair	Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD
Status of the NOC	Not a statutory licence; does not substitute CDSCO approval

When a DAHD NOC is needed (section 5)

NOC mandatory	NOC not required

Vaccines and biologicals: new strain or new source; new manufacturing technology (live, inactivated, recombinant, vectored, r-DNA, sub-unit); genetically modified or recombinant products; new combination or new formulation, even if individual strains are approved earlier	Same strain from the same approved source
Drugs: new chemical entities; new formulations with safety or efficacy implications; new route of administration; first-time use in food-producing animals	Generics of approved veterinary drugs
Medical devices: not previously examined for veterinary use in India; new or modified technology affecting safety or usability; potential implications for biosafety or animal welfare	Devices with approved predicates
	Existing indications, unless a new species or a major change

The standard operating procedure (PDF, 549 KB)

Source: DAHD's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/dahd/insights/dahd-sets-out-when-veterinary-products-need-its-noc/