

Updated Policy on Antibiotics Use in BAP Certified Farms and Hatcheries Effective 02 May 2025


Dear BAP Certified Producer,

Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) would like to advise certified facilities of an important change to its requirements on antibiotic usage. On January 1, 2021, BAP prohibited the use of antimicrobials designated as Critically Important for Human Medicine by the World Health Organization (WHO) for farms certified under the BAP Salmon Farm Standard or the Finfish and Crustacean Farm Standard. But the WHO publication, “**Critically important antimicrobials for human medicine, 6th revision**” that was referenced as justification for that prohibition was superseded in 2024 by a new WHO publication, the “**WHO List of Medically Important Antimicrobials**”, which is available for download here: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/gcp/who-mia-list-2024-lv.pdf?sfvrsn=3320dd3d_2

This publication was a joint effort of the WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH – formerly OIE) and aligns the four organizations’ guidance and lists concerning antibiotic use. New terminology was introduced that re-grouped antimicrobials under new classifications including “**authorized for use in humans only**”, “**authorized for use in both humans and animals**”, and “**not authorized for use in humans**”. Sub-classifications under the category “authorized for use in both humans and animals” now include HPCIA (Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials) and CIA (Critically Important Antimicrobials), and animal use of antimicrobials from either of these categories must always be accompanied by proper safeguards.

Antimicrobials classified as “**authorized for use in humans only**” shall not be used to treat animals in any farm that is certified under the BAP Farm Standard, the BAP Salmon Farm Standard, or the BAP Hatchery Standard. Use of drugs classified by the WHO as “**authorized for both humans and animals**” and which are further classified as either “**Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials**” (HPCIA) or “**Critically Important Antimicrobials**” (CIA) shall be minimized, used only under the advice of a qualified veterinarian, and only where such use has been approved by relevant national legislation. The global aquaculture industry is already reducing use of antimicrobials through various measures including vaccinations and probiotics. The decision to prohibit the use in aquaculture of any antimicrobials classified by WHO as “**authorized for use in humans only**” in the BAP standards provides a renewed focus on combatting antimicrobial resistance.


The BAP standards are continually updated under the guidance of the 15-member SOC, which comprises members with broad stakeholder representation — one-third conservation, one-third academia and

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one-third industry. The SOC is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. Please contact the Program Integrity team at programintegrity@bapcertification.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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