COMMON REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION
OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Several animal pathogens have been spread in different countries either through increased urbanisation and the accompanied animal movements, or through increased international trade in livestock and livestock products. Therefore, the demand for veterinary medicinal products and biologicals has become fundamental for treatment, prevention and control of all animal diseases including infectious and non-infectious diseases. This situation calls for the presence of official regulation to enforce registration of these products to ensure the presence of effective and safe products for combating animal diseases as well as protecting human beings and the environment from the risk associated with these products.

Within the Middle East region, countries having a registration system do not approve directly products registered by other countries. Also in some countries the regulations for imported products are not the same as locally produced ones in that there are some additional requirements for imported products.

The official legislation(s), efficient scientific and technical requirements, the presence of complete data on the animal diseases that are present in the country and the presence of listed testing procedures and testing criteria are fundamental requirements for the success of a system for registering veterinary medicinal products, as well as for harmonising such procedures among member countries of the region, which itself is an important factor for facilitating trade within the region.

We may conclude that within the Middle East region, few countries have clear a regulatory framework and standard procedures for veterinary medicinal products while others have either incomplete procedures or no procedures or legislation in this context. It is worthy to note that the veterinary services are not always the institution in charge of registration and control procedures for all types of veterinary medicinal products; on some occasions the ministry or other institutions of health play that role.