

Compass UK & I Antibiotics Reduction Policy

At Compass UK & I, we are committed to promoting responsible farming practices, ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare, and safeguarding the health and well-being of our consumers. In line with our dedication to these principles, we recognise the urgent need to address the routine use of antibiotics in agriculture. This policy outlines our approach, goals, and actions in response to this critical issue.

Rationale for Antibiotics Reduction

Antibiotic resistance is a global concern, and its implications are far-reaching. We acknowledge the following reasons for reducing antibiotics across our fresh ingredient supply chain:

- 1. Antibiotic Resistance:** The routine prophylaxis administration of antibiotics to farm animals contributes to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, posing a significant threat to public health.
- 2. Human Health Impact:** Resistant bacteria can lead to infections in humans that are challenging to treat, resulting in prolonged illnesses, increased healthcare costs, and, in some cases, fatalities.
- 3. Environmental Concerns:** Antibiotics used in agriculture can enter the environment through farm runoff, contaminating water sources, soil, and wildlife and amplifying antibiotic resistance.
- 4. Animal Welfare:** Prophylactic antibiotic use can mask suboptimal animal husbandry practices, leading to prolonged suffering for animals.
- 5. Food Safety:** Antibiotic residues in meat and animal products can impact food safety and consumer health.
- 6. Economic Costs:** Antibiotic resistance can increase healthcare costs and disrupt agricultural productivity.

Our Position

Compass UK & I is proud of its leadership role in the catering sector and the high sourcing standards we uphold throughout our supply chain, as detailed in our animal welfare statement and sourcing policies. While we have consistently discouraged the routine use of antibiotics and promoted higher animal welfare, we recognise the need to intensify our efforts.

- 1. Our ambition is a complete ban on prophylactic antibiotic Use:** Compass UK & I is committed to implementing a complete ban on the routine use of antibiotics in all fresh meat & poultry, dairy, eggs, and farmed fish & seafood. In achieving this commitment, we will ensure all suppliers from the above categories will have a roadmap in place by 2024.
- 2. Collaboration with supplier partners:** We will collaborate closely with our supplier partners to facilitate progress toward our routine usage ban. A follow-up workshop will be conducted in Q1 2024 to discuss progress and seek industry input, ensuring transparency and shared responsibility.
- 3. Enhanced supplier checks:** all suppliers for fresh animal protein categories will undergo enhanced checks to ascertain their position on antibiotics usage and to allow visibility into usage data.

4. Partnership with Red Tractor: Compass UK & I welcomes Red Tractor's ban on prophylactic use of antibiotics within poultry supply chains and will continue to actively promote the procurement of Red Tractor certified produce. We also support the widening of antibiotic related requirements across farm assured standards.

5. Increased sourcing of organic products: Organic standards do not permit the routine usage of antibiotics, instead prioritising good animal husbandry to minimise disease. In recognition of this, we look to increase our sourcing of organic certified animal products, furthering both our animal welfare and environmental goals.

6. Alignment to our climate strategy: As part of our commitment to Climate Net Zero by 2030, we are increasingly focused on sourcing from more regenerative farming practices. We will continue to work with our supplier farms, as part of the Soil Association Exchange program, which grades performance on antibiotic usage and advises farmers on reduction.

Conclusion

Compass UK & I is steadfast in its commitment to reducing antibiotics across the fresh produce supply chain, recognising the profound impact on public health, the environment, animal welfare, food safety, and economics. We will continue to evolve our practices, engage with our supply chain partners, and advocate for responsible farming practices, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for all.

This policy reflects Compass UK & I's unwavering dedication to our core values and our responsibility to our customers, suppliers, and the wider community. We invite all stakeholders to join us in this crucial endeavour.

For more information about our animal welfare policies and responsible sourcing, please visit the following link:

[Animal Welfare Policy](#)