



COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

LINI OLEUM

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Lini oleum, linseed oil, is a drying oil obtained by expression of linseeds, which contain 30-40% oil. It contains the glycerides of mainly unsaturated fatty acids (40-60% linolenic acid, 10-25% linoleic acid, 13-30% oleic acid) to a lesser part of saturated fatty acids (9-16% stearic, palmitic and myristic acid) and less than 2% unsaponifiable matter (cholesterol, stigmasterine and sitosterine).
2. Linseed oil is used orally in combination with other active ingredients (sulfur and four essential oils) in cattle, horses, sheep and goats for treatment of bloat (tympany) and other disorders of the gastrointestinal tract at approximate doses of 15 g per cattle or horse and 7.5 g per sheep or goat. It has also been used as a laxative in horses.
3. Linseed oil and linseeds are part of the normal human diet. The quantities employed in the diet lie in range of several millilitres for the oil and approximately 10 - 20 g for the linseeds (containing 3 - 4 g of oil). Therapeutic doses of linseed in human medicine when used as a mild oral laxans are 50 - 100 g.
4. Linseed and preparations of linseeds are also used as feeding stuffs for food-producing animals. Therefore linseed oil may also be considered as being contained in the feed of food-producing animals.

Conclusions and recommendation

Having considered the criteria laid down by the Committee for the inclusion of substances in Annex II of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 and in particular that:

- linseed oil is used only for occasional treatment of individual animals,
- linseed oil is considered a normal component of human food,

the Committee considers that there is no need to establish an MRL for linseed oil and recommends its inclusion in Annex II of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 in accordance with the following table:

Pharmacologically active substance(s)	Animal species	Other provisions
Lini oleum	All food producing species	