



Criteria to become a VICH Steering Committee Member

1/ Observer membership

The candidate country will be asked to respond in writing to the Secretariat on each of the 5 criteria detailed below:

- **Regulatory system:** A short outline of the regulatory framework in the applicant country for the granting of marketing authorisations (regulatory approval) for veterinary medicinal products pharmaceuticals and vaccines. A functioning and adequately resourced regulatory system for the marketing authorisation and market control of veterinary medicinal products is a pre-requisite to participate in the VICH Steering Committee (SC).
- **A commitment** to implement the VICH Guidelines to the fullest extent possible, including:
 - Information on the status of implementation of existing VICH Guidelines in the country
 - An action plan to implement the remaining VICH Guidelines
- **Local Industry Association:** Confirmation that the applicant country has a well-established and broadly representative local Industry Association that is prepared to represent the country's animal health industry on VICH.
- **Resources:** Confirmation that the applicant country has the financial and human capacity of both regulators and industry to participate in VICH SC activities, particularly the Steering Committee meetings, *but also Expert Working Groups as desired*, at its own cost.
- **Language:** The capacity to conduct all online and in-person VICH matters in the English language or to provide all necessary translations at their own cost.

2/ Full membership

It is anticipated, that the number of VICH SC members will remain limited. The VICH SC will consider requests from observer members to become full members and conduct a comprehensive deliberation.

The country's financial and regulatory capacity to address all VICH requirements will be considered, as well as the national situation and the regional balance.

In addition to the points for consideration for observer membership, the candidate country will be asked to confirm in writing to the Secretariat its long-term commitment to:

- Attend all SC meetings (regulators and industry)
- Participate in the VICH activities and work program, such as internal and public consultations on working drafts and final draft guidelines (regulators and industry)
- Provide experts to Expert Working Groups (regulators and industry)
- Host SC meetings in rotation (local industry association)
- Implement all VICH Guidelines (article 9 of the Organisational Charter), with an update on the status of implementation of existing VICH Guidelines in the country and a commitment to implement the remaining VICH Guidelines.

Notes:

- Applicants should be aware of the Organisational Charter
- If a country requests to join the VICH SC, it would normally be expected that in a first step this request is for VICH SC observer membership. A full membership can be considered in a second step.
- The requirements to become a VICH Outreach Forum member are detailed in VICH guidance document VICH/11/010 - Terms of Reference for the VICH Outreach Forum.