

Food and Drug Administration, HHS

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the European Community (EC), requests will be sent directly to the relevant authority, with a copy to the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA). If the authority receiving the request cannot carry out the inspection as requested, the requesting authority shall have the right to conduct the inspection.

(c) Reports of preapproval inspections will be sent within 45-calendar days of the request that transmitted the appropriate information and detailed the precise issues to be addressed during the inspection. A shorter time may be necessary in exceptional cases and these will be described in the request.

§ 26.15 Monitoring continued equivalence.

Monitoring activities for the purpose of maintaining equivalence shall include review of the exchange of inspection reports and their quality and timeliness; performance of a limited number of joint inspections; and the conduct of common training sessions.

§ 26.16 Suspension.

(a) Each party has the right to contest the equivalence of a regulatory authority. This right will be exercised in an objective and reasoned manner in writing to the other party.

(b) The issue shall be discussed in the Joint Sectoral Committee promptly upon such notification. Where the Joint Sectoral Committee determines that verification of equivalence is required, it may be carried out jointly by the parties in a timely manner, under § 26.6.

(c) Efforts will be made by the Joint Sectoral Committee to reach unanimous consent on the appropriate action. If agreement to suspend is reached in the Joint Sectoral Committee, an authority may be suspended immediately thereafter. If no agreement is reached in the Joint Sectoral Committee, the matter is referred to the Joint Committee as described in § 26.73. If no unanimous consent is reached within 30 days after such notification, the contested authority will be suspended.

(d) Upon the suspension of authority previously listed as equivalent, a party

is no longer obligated to normally endorse the inspection reports of the suspended authority. A party shall continue to normally endorse the inspection reports of that authority prior to suspension, unless the authority of the receiving party decides otherwise based on health or safety considerations. The suspension will remain in effect until unanimous consent has been reached by the parties on the future status of that authority.

§ 26.17 Role and composition of the Joint Sectoral Committee.

(a) A Joint Sectoral Committee is set up to monitor the activities under both the transitional and operational phases of this subpart.

(b) The Joint Sectoral Committee will be cochaired by a representative of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the United States and a representative of the European Community (EC) who each will have one vote. Decisions will be taken by unanimous consent.

(c) The Joint Sectoral Committee's functions will include:

(1) Making a joint assessment, which must be agreed by both parties, of the equivalence of the respective authorities;

(2) Developing and maintaining the list of equivalent authorities, including any limitation in terms of inspecting type or products, and communicating the list to all authorities and the Joint Committee;

(3) Providing a forum to discuss issues relating to this subpart, including concerns that an authority may be no longer equivalent and opportunity to review product coverage; and

(4) Consideration of the issue of suspension.

(d) The Joint Sectoral Committee shall meet at the request of either party and, unless the cochairs otherwise agree, at least once each year. The Joint Committee will be kept informed of the agenda and conclusions of meetings of the Joint Sectoral Committee.

§ 26.18 Regulatory collaboration.

(a) The parties and authorities shall inform and consult one another, as permitted by law, on proposals to introduce new controls or to change existing

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technical regulations or inspection procedures and to provide the opportunity to comment on such proposals.

(b) The parties shall notify each other in writing of any changes to Appendix B of this subpart.

§ 26.19 Information relating to quality aspects.

The authorities will establish an appropriate means of exchanging information on any confirmed problem reports, corrective actions, recalls, rejected import consignments, and other regulatory and enforcement problems for products subject to this subpart.

§ 26.20 Alert system.

(a) The details of an alert system will be developed during the transitional period. The system will be maintained in place at all times. Elements to be considered in developing such a system are described in Appendix E of this subpart.

(b) Contact points will be agreed between both parties to permit authorities to be made aware with the appropriate speed in case of quality defect, recalls, counterfeiting, and other problems concerning quality, which could necessitate additional controls or suspension of the distribution of the product.

§ 26.21 Safeguard clause.

Each party recognizes that the importing country has a right to fulfill its legal responsibilities by taking actions necessary to ensure the protection of human and animal health at the level of protection it deems appropriate. This includes the suspension of the distribution, product detention at the border of the importing country, withdrawal of the batches and any request for additional information or inspection as provided in § 26.12.

APPENDIX A TO SUBPART A OF PART 26— LIST OF APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

1. For the European Community (EC):

[Copies of EC documents may be obtained from the European Document Research, 1100 17th St. NW., suite 301, Washington, DC 20036. EC documents may be viewed on the Euro-

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pean Commission Pharmaceuticals Units web site at <http://dg3.eudra.org>.]

Council Directive 65/65/EEC of 26 January 1965 on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation, or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products as extended, widened, and amended. Council Directive 75/319/EEC of 20 May 1975 on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products as extended, widened and amended.

Council Directive 81/851/EEC of 28 September 1981 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products, as widened and amended.

Commission Directive 91/356/EEC of 13 June 1991 laying down the principles and guidelines of good manufacturing practice for medicinal products for human use.

Commission Directive 91/412/EEC of 23 July 1991 laying down the principles and guidelines of good manufacturing practice for veterinary medicinal products.

Council Regulation EEC No 2309/93 of 22 July 1993 laying down Community procedures for the authorization and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products.

Council Directive 92/25/EEC of 31 March 1992 on the wholesale distribution of medicinal products for human use.

Guide to Good Distribution Practice (94/C 63/03).

Current version of the Guide to Good Manufacturing Practice, Rules Governing Medicinal Products in the European Community, Volume IV.

2. For the United States:

[Copies of FDA documents may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, 1510 H St. NW., Washington, DC 20005. FDA documents, except the FDA Compliance Program Guidance Manual, may be viewed on FDA's Internet web site at <http://www.FDA.gov>.]

Relevant sections of the United States Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the United States Public Health Service Act.

Relevant sections of Title 21, United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1–99, Parts 200–299, Parts 500–599, and Parts 600–799.

Relevant sections of the FDA Investigations Operations Manual, the FDA Regulatory Procedures Manual, the FDA Compliance Policy Guidance Manual, the FDA Compliance Program Guidance Manual, and other FDA guidances.