

(b) *Request for exemption or alternative.* Submit your request under this section to the Director of the appropriate Center (the Director), e.g., the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research or the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. The request must be accompanied by supporting documentation, including all relevant valid scientific data, and must contain either:

(1) Information justifying the requested exemption from the requirement, or

(2) A description of a proposed alternative method of meeting the requirement.

(c) *Criteria for granting an exemption or alternative.* The Director may grant an exemption or alternative if he or she finds that such action is consistent with the goals of protecting the public health and/or preventing the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases and that:

(1) The information submitted justifies an exemption; or

(2) The proposed alternative satisfies the purpose of the requirement.

(d) *Form of request.* You must ordinarily make your request for an exemption or alternative in writing (hard copy or electronically). However, if circumstances make it difficult (e.g., there is inadequate time) to submit your request in writing, you may make the request orally, and the Director may orally grant an exemption or alternative. You must follow your oral request with an immediate written request, to which the Director will respond in writing.

(e) *Operation under exemption or alternative.* You must not begin operating under the terms of a requested exemption or alternative until the exemption or alternative has been granted. You may apply for an extension of an exemption or alternative beyond its expiration date, if any.

(f) *Documentation.* If you operate under the terms of an exemption or alternative, you must maintain documentation of:

(1) FDA's grant of the exemption or alternative, and

(2) The date on which you began operating under the terms of the exemption or alternative.

(g) *Issuance of an exemption or alternative by the Director.* In a public health emergency, the Director may issue an exemption from, or alternative to, any requirement in part 1271. The Director may issue an exemption or alternative under this section if the exemption or alternative is necessary to assure that certain HCT/Ps will be available in a specified location to respond to an unanticipated immediate need for those HCT/Ps.

§ 1271.160 Establishment and maintenance of a quality program.

(a) *General.* If you are an establishment that performs any step in the manufacture of HCT/Ps, you must establish and maintain a quality program intended to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases through the manufacture and use of HCT/Ps. The quality program must be appropriate for the specific HCT/Ps manufactured and the manufacturing steps performed. The quality program must address all core CGTP requirements listed in § 1271.150(b).

(b) *Functions.* Functions of the quality program must include:

(1) Establishing and maintaining appropriate procedures relating to core CGTP requirements, and ensuring compliance with the requirements of § 1271.180 with respect to such procedures, including review, approval, and revision;

(2) Ensuring that procedures exist for receiving, investigating, evaluating, and documenting information relating to core CGTP requirements, including complaints, and for sharing any information pertaining to the possible contamination of the HCT/P or the potential for transmission of a communicable disease by the HCT/P with the following:

(i) Other establishments that are known to have recovered HCT/Ps from the same donor;

(ii) Other establishments that are known to have performed manufacturing steps with respect to the same HCT/P; and

(iii) Relating to consignees, in the case of such information received after the HCT/P is made available for distribution, shipped to the consignee, or

administered to the recipient, procedures must include provisions for assessing risk and appropriate followup, and evaluating the effect this information has on the HCT/P and for the notification of all entities to whom the affected HCT/P was distributed, the quarantine and recall of the HCT/P, and/or reporting to FDA, as necessary.

(3) Ensuring that appropriate corrective actions relating to core CGTP requirements, including reaudits of deficiencies, are taken and documented, as necessary. You must verify corrective actions to ensure that such actions are effective and are in compliance with CGTP. Where appropriate, corrective actions must include both short-term action to address the immediate problem and long-term action to prevent the problem's recurrence. Documentation of corrective actions must include, where appropriate:

(i) Identification of the HCT/P affected and a description of its disposition;

(ii) The nature of the problem requiring corrective action;

(iii) A description of the corrective action taken; and

(iv) The date(s) of the corrective action.

(4) Ensuring the proper training and education of personnel involved in activities related to core CGTP requirements;

(5) Establishing and maintaining appropriate monitoring systems as necessary to comply with the requirements of this subpart (e.g., environmental monitoring);

(6) Investigating and documenting HCT/P deviations and trends of HCT/P deviations relating to core CGTP requirements and making reports if required under §1271.350(b) or other applicable regulations. Each investigation must include a review and evaluation of the HCT/P deviation, the efforts made to determine the cause, and the implementation of corrective action(s) to address the HCT/P deviation and prevent recurrence.

(c) *Audits.* You must periodically perform for management review a quality audit, as defined in §1271.3(gg), of activities related to core CGTP requirements.

(d) *Computers.* You must validate the performance of computer software for the intended use, and the performance of any changes to that software for the intended use, if you rely upon the software to comply with core CGTP requirements and if the software either is custom software or is commercially available software that has been customized or programmed (including software programmed to perform a function related to core CGTP requirements). You must verify the performance of all other software for the intended use if you rely upon it to comply with core CGTP requirements. You must approve and document these activities and results before implementation.

§ 1271.170 Personnel.

(a) *General.* You must have personnel sufficient to ensure compliance with the requirements of this part.

(b) *Competent performance of functions.* You must have personnel with the necessary education, experience, and training to ensure competent performance of their assigned functions. Personnel must perform only those activities for which they are qualified and authorized.

(c) *Training.* You must train all personnel, and retrain as necessary, to perform their assigned responsibilities adequately.

§ 1271.180 Procedures.

(a) *General.* You must establish and maintain procedures appropriate to meet core CGTP requirements for all steps that you perform in the manufacture of HCT/Ps. You must design these procedures to prevent circumstances that increase the risk of the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases through the use of HCT/Ps.

(b) *Review and approval.* Before implementation, a responsible person must review and approve these procedures.

(c) *Availability.* These procedures must be readily available to the personnel in the area where the operations to which they relate are performed, or in a nearby area if such availability is impractical.