

§ 26.13

material inconsistencies or inadequacies in an inspection report, quality defects identified in the postmarket surveillance or other specific evidence of serious concern in relation to product quality or consumer safety. In such cases, the authority of the importing party may request clarification from the authority of the exporting party which may lead to a request for reinspection. The authorities will endeavor to respond to requests for clarification in a timely manner.

(b) Where divergence is not clarified in this process, an authority of the importing country may carry out an inspection of the production facility.

§ 26.13 Transmission of postapproval inspection reports.

Postapproval good manufacturing practice (GMP) inspection reports concerning products covered by this subpart will be transmitted to the authority of the importing country within 60-calendar days of the request. Should a new inspection be needed, the inspection report will be transmitted within 90-calendar days of the request.

§ 26.14 Transmission of preapproval inspection reports.

(a) A preliminary notification that an inspection may have to take place will be made as soon as possible.

(b) Within 15-calendar days, the relevant authority will acknowledge receipt of the request and confirm its ability to carry out the inspection. In 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 (EMEA). 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.

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§ 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 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 European 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.