mailing addresses in § 600.2 of this chapter). Upon notification by the Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, a manufacturer shall not distribute a lot of a product until the lot is released by the Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research: *Provided*, That the Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, shall not issue such notification except when deemed necessary for the safety, purity, or potency of the product.

(b) *Licensed biological products regulated by CDER*. Samples of any lot of any licensed product together with the protocols showing results of applicable tests, may at any time be required to be sent to the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (see mailing addresses in § 600.2) for official release. Upon notification by the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, a manufacturer shall not distribute a lot of a biological product until the lot is released by the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research: *Provided*, That the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research shall not issue such notification except when deemed necessary for the safety, purity, or potency of the product.

[40 FR 31313, July 25, 1975, as amended by 49 FR 23834, June 8, 1984; 50 FR 10941, Mar. 19, 1985; 55 FR 11013 and 11014, Mar. 26, 1990; 67 FR 9587, Mar. 4, 2002; 70 FR 14984, Mar. 24, 2005]

Subpart B—General Provisions

§ 610.9 Equivalent methods and processes.

Modification of any particular test method or manufacturing process or the conditions under which it is conducted as required in this part or in the additional standards for specific biological products in parts 620 through 680 of this chapter shall be permitted only under the following conditions:

(a) The applicant presents evidence, in the form of a license application, or a supplement to the application submitted in accordance with § 601.12(b) or (c), demonstrating that the modification will provide assurances of the safety, purity, potency, and effectiveness of the biological product equal to or greater than the assurances provided by the method or process specified in the general standards or additional standards for the biological product; and

(b) Approval of the modification is received in writing from the Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research or the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

[62 FR 39903, July 24, 1997, as amended at 70 FR 14984, Mar. 24, 2005]

§ 610.10 Potency.

Tests for potency shall consist of either in vitro or in vivo tests, or both, which have been specifically designed for each product so as to indicate its potency in a manner adequate to satisfy the interpretation of potency given by the definition in § 600.3(s) of this chapter.

§ 610.11 General safety.

A general safety test for the detection of extraneous toxic contaminants shall be performed on biological products intended for administration to humans. The general safety test is required in addition to other specific tests prescribed in the additional standards for individual products in this subchapter, except that, the test need not be performed on those products listed in paragraph (g) of this section. The general safety test shall be performed as specified in this section, unless: Modification is prescribed in the additional standards for specific products, or variation is approved as a supplement to the product license under § 610.9.

(a) *Product to be tested*. The general safety test shall be conducted upon a representative sample of the product in the final container from every final filling of each lot of the product. If any product is processed further after filling, such as by freeze-drying, sterilization, or heat treatment, the test shall be conducted upon a sample from each filling of each drying chamber run, sterilization chamber, or heat treatment bath.

(b) *Test animals*. Only overtly healthy guinea pigs weighing less than 400 grams each and mice weighing less than 22 grams each shall be used. The animals shall not have been used previously for any test purpose.

(c) *Procedure*. The duration of the general safety test shall be 7 days for both species, except that a longer period may be established for specific products in accordance with § 610.9. Once the manufacturer has established a specific duration of the test period for a specific product, it cannot be varied subsequently, except, in accordance with § 610.9. Each test animal shall be weighed and the individual weights recorded immediately prior to injection and on the last day of the test. Each animal shall be observed every working day. Any animal response including any which is not specific for or expected from the product and which may indicate a difference in its quality shall be recorded on the day such response is observed. The test product shall be administered as follows:

(1) *Liquid product or freeze-dried product which has been reconstituted as directed on the label*. Inject intraperitoneally 0.5 milliliter of the liquid product or the reconstituted product into each of at least two mice, and 5.0 milliliters of the liquid product or the reconstituted product into each of at least two guinea pigs.

(2) *Freeze-dried product for which the volume of reconstitution is not indicated on the label*. The route of administration, test dose, and diluent shall be as approved in accordance with § 610.9. Administer the test product as approved on at least two mice and at least two guinea pigs.

(3) *Nonliquid products other than freeze-dried product*. The route of administration, test dose, and diluent shall be as in accordance with § 610.9. Dissolve or grind and suspend the product in the approved diluent. Administer the test product as approved on at least two mice and at least two guinea pigs.

(d) *Test requirements*. A safety test is satisfactory if all animals meet all of the following requirements:

(1) They survive the test period.

(2) They do not exhibit any response which is not specific for or expected from the product and which may indicate a difference in its quality.

(3) They weigh no less at the end of the test period than at the time of injection.

(e) *Repeat tests*—(1) *First repeat test*. If a filling fails to meet the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section in the initial test, a repeat test may be conducted on the species which failed the initial test, as prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section. The filling is satisfactory only if each retest animal meets the requirements prescribed in paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) *Second repeat test*. If a filling fails to meet the requirements of the first repeat test, a second repeat test may be conducted on the species which failed the test: *Provided*, That 50 percent of the total number of animals in that species has survived the initial and first repeat tests. The second repeat test shall be conducted as prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section, except that the number of animals shall be twice that used in the first repeat test. The filling is satisfactory only if each second repeat test animal meets the requirements prescribed in paragraph (d) of this section.

(f) [Reserved]

(g) *Exceptions*—(1) The test prescribed in this section need not be performed for Whole Blood, Red Blood Cells, Cryoprecipitated AHF, Platelets, Plasma, or Cellular Therapy Products.

(2) For products other than those identified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section, a manufacturer may request from the Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research or the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (see mailing addresses in § 600.2 of this chapter), an exemption from the general safety test. The manufacturer must submit information as part of a biologics license application submission or supplement to an approved biologics license application establishing that because of the mode of administration, the method of preparation, or the special nature of the product a test of general safety is unnecessary to assure the safety, purity, and potency of the product or cannot be performed. The request must include alternate procedures, if any, to be performed. The Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research or the Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, upon finding that the manufacturer's request justifies an exemption, may exempt the product from

the general safety test subject to any condition necessary to assure the safety, purity, and potency of the product.

[41 FR 10891, Mar. 15, 1976, as amended at 49 FR 15187, Apr. 18, 1984; 49 FR 23834, June 8, 1984; 50 FR 4133, Jan. 29, 1985; 51 FR 15607, Apr. 25, 1986; 55 FR 11013, Mar. 26, 1990; 59 FR 49351, Sept. 28, 1994; 63 FR 19403, Apr. 20, 1998; 63 FR 41718, Aug. 5, 1998; 68 FR 10160, Mar. 4, 2003; 70 FR 14984, Mar. 24, 2005]

§ 610.11a Inactivated influenza vaccine, general safety test.

For inactivated influenza vaccine, the general safety test shall be conducted in the manner indicated in § 610.11 of this chapter except that, with reference to guinea pigs, the test shall be satisfied if the product provides satisfactory results using either the subcutaneous or intraperitoneal injection of 5.0 milliliters of inactivated influenza vaccine into each guinea pig. The requirements for general safety for inactivated influenza vaccine shall not be considered to be satisfied unless each lot of influenza vaccine is assayed for endotoxin in comparison to a reference preparation provided by the Food and Drug Administration, and such lot is found to contain no more endotoxin than the reference preparation.

[39 FR 40016, Nov. 13, 1974]

§ 610.12 Sterility.

Except as provided in paragraphs (f) and (g) of this section, the sterility of each lot of each product shall be demonstrated by the performance of the tests prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section for both bulk and final container material.

(a) *The test.* Bulk material shall be tested separately from final container material and material from each final container shall be tested in individual test vessels as follows:

(1) *Using Fluid Thioglycollate Medium*—(i) *Bulk and final container material.* The volume of product, as required by paragraph (d) of this section (hereinafter referred to also as the ''inoculum''), from samples of both bulk and final container material, shall be inoculated into test vessels of Fluid Thioglycollate Medium. The inoculum and medium shall be mixed thoroughly and incubated at a temperature of 30 to 35 °C for a test period of no less than 14 days and examined visually for evidence of growth on the third, fourth, or fifth day, and on the seventh or eighth day, and on the last day of the test period. Results of each examination shall be recorded. If the inoculum renders the medium turbid so that the absence of growth cannot be determined reliably by visual examination, portions of this turbid medium in amounts of no less than 1.0 milliliter shall be transferred on the third, fourth, or fifth day of incubation, from each of the test vessels and inoculated into additional vessels of the medium. The material in the additional vessels shall be incubated at a temperature of 30 to 35 °C for no less than 14 days. Notwithstanding such transfer of material, examination of the original vessels shall be continued as prescribed above. The additional test vessels shall be examined visually for evidence of growth on the third, fourth, or fifth day of incubation, and on the seventh or eighth day, and on the last day of the incubation period. If growth appears, repeat tests may be performed as prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section and interpreted as specified in paragraph (c) of this section.

(ii) *Final container material containing a mercurial preservative.* In addition to the test prescribed in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, final container material containing a mercurial preservative shall be tested using Fluid Thioglycollate Medium following the procedures prescribed in such subparagraph, except that the incubation shall be at a temperature of 20 to 25 °C.

(2) *Using Soybean-Casein Digest Medium.* Except for products containing a mercurial preservative, a test shall be made on final container material, following the procedures prescribed in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, except that the medium shall be Soybean-Casein Digest Medium and the incubation shall be at a temperature of 20 to 25 °C.

(b) *Repeat tests.* If growth appears in any of the test media during testing of either bulk or final container material, the test may be repeated to rule out faulty test procedures as follows: