Guidance for Industry

Q4B Evaluation and Recommendation of Pharmacopoeial Texts for Use in the ICH Regions

Annex 5
Disintegration Test General Chapter

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

December 2009
ICH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contains Nonbinding Recommendations

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This guidance represents the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible for implementing this guidance. If you cannot identify the appropriate FDA staff, call the appropriate number listed on the title page of this guidance.

I. INTRODUCTION (1)[2]

This annex is one in a series of guidance documents that describe the evaluations and recommendations by the Q4B Expert Working Group (EWG) of selected pharmacopoeial texts to facilitate their recognition by regulatory authorities for use as interchangeable in the ICH regions. Implementation of the Q4B annexes is intended to avoid redundant testing by industry. For general information on the Q4B process, the reader is referred to the core guidance *Q4B Evaluation and Recommendation of Pharmacopoeial Texts for Use in the ICH Regions*.[3]

This annex is the result of the Q4B process for Disintegration Test General Chapter. The proposed texts were submitted by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG).

FDA's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are

[1] This guidance was developed within the Expert Working Group (Quality) of the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) and has been subject to consultation by the regulatory parties, in accordance with the ICH process. This document has been endorsed by the ICH Steering Committee at *Step 4* of the ICH process, June 2009. At *Step 4* of the process, the final draft is recommended for adoption to the regulatory bodies of the European Union, Japan, and the United States.

[2] Arabic numbers reflect the organizational breakdown of the document endorsed by the ICH Steering Committee at Step 4 of the ICH process, June 2009.

[3] We update guidance documents periodically. To make sure you have the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA Drugs guidance page at http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm or the FDA Biologics guidance page at http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/ Guidances/default.htm.

cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

II. Q4B OUTCOME (2)

A. Analytical Procedures (2.1)

The ICH Steering Committee, based on the evaluation by the Q4B Expert Working Group (EWG), recommends that for tablets and capsules, the official pharmacopoeial texts, Ph. Eur. 2.9.1. Disintegration of Tablets and Capsules, JP 6.09 Disintegration Test, and USP <701> Disintegration, can be used as interchangeable in the ICH regions subject to the conditions detailed below. Testing conditions for specific dosage forms are outside the scope of the harmonization of this chapter.

1. (2.1.1) For tablets and capsules larger than 18 millimeters long for which a different apparatus is used, the Disintegration Test is not considered to be interchangeable in the three regions.

2. (2.1.2) The Disintegration Test is not considered to be interchangeable in the three regions for dosage forms referred to in the regional compendia as *delayed-release, gastro-resistant, or enteric-coated.*

3. (2.1.3) Product-specific parameters such as media and the use of discs should be specified in the application dossier.

B. Acceptance Criteria (2.2)

Acceptance criteria are outside the scope of the harmonization of this chapter and should be specified in the application dossier.

III. TIMING OF ANNEX IMPLEMENTATION (3)

When this annex is implemented (incorporated into the regulatory process at ICH Step 5) in a region, it can be used in that region. Timing might differ for each region.

IV. CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION (4)

A. General Consideration (4.1)

When sponsors or manufacturers change their existing methods to the implemented Q4B-evaluated pharmacopoeial texts that are referenced in section II.A (2.1) of this annex, any change

notification, variation, and/or prior approval procedures should be handled in accordance with established regional regulatory mechanisms pertaining to compendial changes.

B. FDA Consideration (4.2)

Based on the recommendation above, and with reference to the conditions set forth in this annex, the pharmacopoeial texts referenced in section II.A (2.1) of this annex can be considered interchangeable. However, FDA might request that a company demonstrate that the chosen method is acceptable and suitable for a specific material or product, irrespective of the origin of the method.

C. EU Consideration (4.3)

For the European Union, the monographs of the Ph. Eur. have mandatory applicability. Regulatory authorities can accept the reference in a marketing authorization application, renewal or variation application citing the use of the corresponding text from another pharmacopoeia as referenced in section II.A (2.1), in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex, as fulfilling the requirements for compliance with the Ph. Eur. Chapter 2.9.1. on the basis of the declaration of interchangeability made above.

D. MHLW Consideration (4.4)

The pharmacopoeial texts referenced in section II.A (2.1) of this annex can be used as interchangeable in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex. Details of implementation requirements will be provided in the notification by MHLW when this annex is implemented.

V. REFERENCES USED FOR THE Q4B EVALUATION (5)

A. (5.1) The PDG Stage 5B sign-off document (Rev. 1): *Japanese Pharmacopoeial Forum,* Volume 16, number 4 (December 2007).

B. (5.2) The pharmacopoeial references for Disintegration Test General Chapter for this annex are:

1. (5.2.1) European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.): Supplement 6.3 (official January 2009) Disintegration of Tablets and Capsules (reference 01/2009: 20901).

2. (5.2.2) Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP): 6.09 Disintegration Test as it appeared in the partial revision of the JP 15th edition (made official March 31, 2009, by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ministerial Notification No. 190).

3. (5.2.3) United States Pharmacopeia (USP): Revision Bulletin <701> Disintegration issued June 6, 2008, and official August 1, 2008.