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

Annex 4A: Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests General Chapter

For questions regarding this draft document contact (CDER) Robert King 301-796-1242, or (CBER) Christopher Joneckis 301-827-0373.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

Draft Consensus Guideline

Q4B - Annex 4A

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

ON

Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests General Chapter

Current Step 2 Version
Dated June 5, 2008

At Step 2 of the ICH Process, a consensus draft text or guideline, agreed by the appropriate ICH Expert Working Group, is transmitted by the ICH Steering Committee to the regulatory authorities of the three ICH regions (the European Union, Japan and the USA) for internal and external consultation, according to national or regional procedures.

Q4B -- Annex 4A

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

ON

Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests General Chapter

ICH Consensus Guideline

Released for Consultation on June 5, 2008, at *Step 2* of the ICH Process

1. Introduction

This annex is the result of the Q4B process for Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests.

The proposed texts were submitted by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG).

2. Q4B Outcome

2.1 Analytical Procedures

The ICH Steering Committee, based on the evaluation by the Q4B Expert Working Group (EWG), recommends that the official pharmacopoeial texts, Ph.Eur. 2.6.12. Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests, JP 4.05 Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: I. Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests, and USP <61> Microbiological Examination of Nonsterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests can be used as interchangeable in the ICH regions.

2.2 Acceptance Criteria

The proposed texts evaluated did not contain acceptance criteria.

3. Timing of Annex Implementation

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.

4. Considerations for Implementation

4.1 General consideration: When sponsors or manufacturers change their existing methods to the implemented Q4B-evaluated pharmacopoeial texts that are referenced in Section 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.

4.2 FDA consideration: Based on the recommendation above, and with reference to the conditions set forth in this annex, the pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 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.

4.3 EU consideration: For the European Union, the monographs of the Ph. Eur. have mandatory applicability. Regulatory authorities can accept the reference in a marketing authorisation application, renewal or variation application citing the use of the corresponding text from another pharmacopoeia as referenced in Section 2, in accordance with the conditions set out in

this annex, as fulfilling the requirements for compliance with the Ph. Eur. Chapter 2.6.12. on the basis of the declaration of interchangeability made above.

4.4 MHLW consideration: The pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 2 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.

5. References Used for the Q4B Evaluation

5.1 The PDG Stage 5B sign-off document: *Japanese Pharmacopoeial Forum*, Volume 14, Number 4, (December 2005)

5.2 The pharmacopoeial references for Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests for this annex are:

5.2.1 *European Pharmacopoeia* (Ph. Eur.):
6.3 Edition (official on January 2009) Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests (reference 01/2009: 20612)

5.2.2 *Japanese Pharmacopoeia* (JP):
4.05 Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: I. Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests as it appears in Supplement I to the Japanese Pharmacopoeia Fifteenth Edition, (September 28, 2007, The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ministerial Notification No. 316). The English version was published on January 9, 2008.

5.2.3 *United States Pharmacopeia* (USP):
<61> Microbiological Examination of Nonsterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests official in USP 30, January 2007.