

Food and Drug Administration Rockville MD 20857

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Re: Invanz Docket No.: 03E-0250

The Honorable James E. Rogan Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Box Pat. Ext. P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Rogan:

This is in regard to the application for patent term extension for U.S. Patent No. 5,478,820, filed by Syngenta Limited, under 35 U.S.C. section 156 et seq. We have reviewed the dates contained in the application and have determined the regulatory review period for Invanz, the human drug product claimed by the patent.

The total length of the regulatory review period for Invanz is 2,273 days. Of this time, 1,916 days occurred during the testing phase and 357 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. The date an exemption under subsection 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act involving this drug product became effective: September 3, 1995.

The applicant claims September 2, 1995, as the date the investigational new drug application (IND) became effective. However, FDA records indicate that the IND effective date was September 3, 1995, which was thirty days after FDA receipt of the IND.

2. The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: November 30, 2000.

FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new drug application (NDA) for Invanz (NDA 21-337) was initially submitted on November 30, 2000.

3. <u>The date the application was approved</u>: November 21, 2001.

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FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 21-337 was approved on November 21, 2001.

This determination of the regulatory review period by FDA does not take into account the effective date of the patent, nor does it exclude one-half of the testing phase as required by 35 U.S.C. section 156(c)(2).

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

one a. applied

Jane A. Axelrad Associate Director for Policy Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Sylvia A. Ayler Merck & Company, Inc. Patent Department P.O. Box 2000 Rahway, NJ 07065-0907