



August 5, 2003

Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

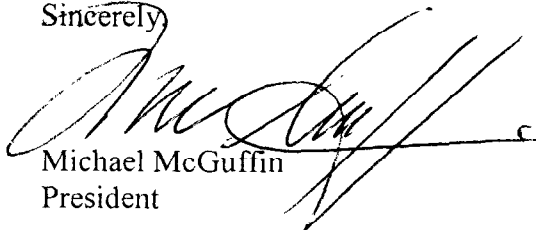
Request For Extension Of Comment Period: Docket No. 96N-0417, Good Manufacturing Practices For Dietary Supplements

The American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) hereby requests a 30-day extension of the comment period on the above-referenced rule. AHPA and its members have engaged in numerous meetings and have expended significant resources in the preparation of comments to this rule. Good progress has been made by these efforts and AHPA fully intends to file timely comments on August 11, 2003.

Nevertheless, AHPA is concerned that it has not been able to adequately address the analysis of economic impact of the proposed rule. On July 22, 2003, AHPA submitted an electronic request under the Freedom of Information Act for information related to this economic analysis, and specifically the spreadsheets that were used to develop the tables that accompanied the economic analysis. This request has not yet been fulfilled and AHPA believes that this information will greatly assist our understanding of the agency's economic assumptions and calculations.

In view of the importance of having a complete administrative record and the critical importance of this rule to our industry, we hereby request an additional 30 days following our receipt of this additional economic data to complete our comments. This small amount of additional time is essential if we are to be able to adequately represent our members' interests with respect to this important rule.

Sincerely



Michael McGuffin
President

cc: Bill Hubbard, Peter Pitts, Dan Troy

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