## 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

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current thinking on this topic.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.

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

	Corrected Final signoff Step 2 Annex 4A Microbial Enumeration June 20, 2008
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3	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL
4	REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE
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8	Draft Consensus Guideline
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14	Q4B - Annex 4A
15	Evaluation and Recommendation of Pharmacopoeial Texts
16	for Use in the ICH Regions
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21	Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products:
22	Microbial Enumeration Tests
	General Chapter
23	General Chapter
24 25	
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28	Current Step 2 Version
29	Dated June 5, 2008
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38 39 40	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

41 to national or regional procedures.

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42			Q4B Annex 4A			
43			Evaluation and Recommendation of Pharmacopoeial Texts			
44			for Use in the ICH Regions			
45			ON			
46			Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products:			
47			Microbial Enumeration Tests			
48			General Chapter			
49			General Chapter			
<del>5</del> 0			ICH Consensus Guideline			
50 51 52 53			Released for Consultation on June 5, 2008, at <i>Step 2</i> of the ICH Process			
55 54	1	Intr	oduction			
55 56 57	1.	11101	This annex is the result of the Q4B process for Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests.			
58 59			The proposed texts were submitted by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG).			
60	2.		3 Outcome			
61		2.1	Analytical Procedures			
62 63			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			
63 64			Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests, JP 4.05 Microbiological			
65			Examination of Non-Sterile Products: I. Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products:			
66			Microbial Enumeration Tests, and USP <61> Microbiological Examination of Nonsterile			
67			Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests can be used as interchangeable in the ICH regions.			
68 60		2.2	A secontarios Critaria			
69 70		2.2	Acceptance Criteria The proposed texts evaluated did not contain acceptance criteria.			
70 71 72	3	3. Timing of Annex Implementation				
72 73	5.					
74 75 76			en this annex is implemented (incorporated into the regulatory process at ICH Step 5) in a region, n be used in that region. Timing might differ for each region.			
77	4.	Cor	nsiderations for Implementation			
79		4.1	General consideration: When sponsors or manufacturers change their existing methods to the			
80			implemented Q4B-evaluated pharmacopoeial texts that are referenced in Section 2.1 of this			
81			annex, any change notification, variation, and/or prior approval procedures should be handled in			
82 83			accordance with established regional regulatory mechanisms pertaining to compendial changes.			
83 84		4.2	FDA consideration: Based on the recommendation above, and with reference to the conditions			
85			set forth in this annex, the pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 2.1 of this annex can be			
86			considered interchangeable. However, FDA might request that a company demonstrate that the			
87			chosen method is acceptable and suitable for a specific material or product, irrespective of the			
88			origin of the method.			
89 00		1 2	EU consideration. For the European Union, the managements of the Dh. For here man determined			
90 91		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			
92			application, renewal or variation application citing the use of the corresponding text from			
93			another pharmacopoeia as referenced in Section 2, in accordance with the conditions set out in			

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94 95 96			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.		
97 98 99 100 101		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.		
102 103	5.	Ref	ferences Used for the Q4B Evaluation		
104 105 106		5.1	The PDG Stage 5B sign-off document: <i>Japanese Pharmacopoeial Forum</i> , Volume 14, Number 4, (December 2005)		
107 108		5.2	The pharmacopoeial references for Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests for this annex are:		
109 110 111 112 113			<ul> <li>5.2.1 European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.):</li> <li>6.3 Edition (official on January 2009) Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests (reference 01/2009: 20612)</li> </ul>		
113 114 115 116			<ul> <li>5.2.2 Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP):</li> <li>4.05 Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: I. Microbiological Examination of Non-Sterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests as it appears in</li> </ul>		
117 118 119			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.		
120 121 122 123			<ul> <li>5.2.3 United States Pharmacopeia (USP):</li> <li>&lt;61&gt; Microbiological Examination of Nonsterile Products: Microbial Enumeration Tests official in USP 30, January 2007.</li> </ul>		