

3 MAY 1991

Dear Biologic Product Manufacturer:

The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) is seeking clarification of the procedures and precautions used in controlling materials of bovine or ovine origin used in the manufacture of biologic products intended for administration to humans. This will assist CBER in evaluating the impact of evolving information regarding infectious agents potentially present in materials from bovine or ovine sources (e.g., -- spongiform encephalopathies).

We are therefore requesting, pursuant to 21 CFR 207.31, that manufacturers of biologic products provide information regarding the source(s) and control of any bovine- or ovine-derived material(s) used in preparing products to be administered to humans for prophylaxis, therapy, or diagnosis. This request is not only for information relating to material that is directly incorporated into the product, but also for information on any materials used in manufacturing (e.g., enzymes, cell culture components, chromatographic media, etc.).

Some specific examples of materials that are, or may be, of bovine or ovine origin include bovine fetal serum, bovine serum albumin, fetuin, proteolytic enzymes (e.g., protease, trypsin, chymotrypsin, etc.), deoxyribonucleases (this is not intended to be a complete listing). If you are unsure of the origin of a component used in the preparation of your products, please obtain this information from the supplier.

Please submit the following information regarding each biologic product that you manufacture under an accepted product license, pending license application or amendment, or investigational new drug application (IND) (This information should not be submitted to your license, license application or amendment, or IND; see instructions below):

1. The name and status (licensed, license pending, or IND) of each biologic product.
2. For each product, a list of the material(s) derived from bovine or ovine sources used directly in the product or in manufacturing. If no material from bovine or ovine sources is used, indicate "none" in response.
3. The name and address of the supplier(s) of each bovine- or ovine-derived material.

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4. A description of the controls utilized by you and the supplier(s) of bovine- or ovine-derived material(s) to assure and document the health and country of origin of the animals used in production of these materials.
5. A description of the testing performed on each lot of bovine- or ovine-derived material, including the acceptance criteria used. Indicate if the testing is performed by you or the supplier. If performed by the supplier, indicate if you receive detailed test results or summary information.

We request that you submit this information within 60 days of the above date to:

Gerald V. Quinnan, Jr., M.D.  
Acting Director  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research  
Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology  
Attention: HFB-250, Building 29 - BSE  
8800 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Sincerely yours,

Gerald V. Quinnan, Jr., M.D.  
Acting Director  
Center for Biologics  
Evaluation and Research