

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For animal drug products, the testing phase begins on the earlier date when either a major environmental effects test was initiated for the drug or when an exemption under section 512(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(j)) became effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the animal drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for an animal drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(4)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the animal drug product DOMITOR® (medetomidine hydrochloride). DOMITOR® is indicated as a sedative and analgesic in dogs over 12 weeks of age to facilitate clinical examinations, clinical procedures, minor surgical procedures not requiring muscle relaxation, and minor dental procedures not requiring intubation. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for DOMITOR® (U.S. Patent No. 4,544,664) from ORION-YHTYMA OY and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated August 20, 1996, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this animal drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of DOMITOR® represented the first commercial marketing of the product. Shortly thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for DOMITOR® is 4,000 days. Of this time, 2,294 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 1,706 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 512(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act became effective:* April 8, 1985. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that April 8, 1985, was

the date the investigational new animal drug application became effective.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the animal drug product under section 512(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act:* July 19, 1991. The applicant claims July 2, 1991, as the date the new animal drug application (NADA) for DOMITOR® (NADA 140-999) was initially submitted. However, a review of FDA records reveals that the date of FDA's official acknowledgement letter assigning a number to the NADA was July 19, 1991, which is considered to be the initially submitted date for the NADA.

3. *The date the application was approved:* March 19, 1996. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NADA 140-999 was approved on March 19, 1996.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension, this applicant seeks 1,095 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published is incorrect may, on or before January 28, 1997, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments and ask for a redetermination. Furthermore, any interested person may petition FDA, on or before May 28, 1997, for a determination regarding whether the applicant for extension acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period. To meet its burden, the petition must contain sufficient facts to merit an FDA investigation. (See H. Rept. 857, part 1, 98th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 41-42, 1984.) Petitions should be in the format specified in 21 CFR 10.30.

Comments and petitions should be submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) in three copies (except that individuals may submit single copies) and identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments and petitions may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: November 20, 1996.
Stuart L. Nightingale,
Associate Commissioner for Health Affairs.
[FR Doc. 96-30388 Filed 11-27-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

[Docket No. 96E-0194]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; DOMITOR®

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for DOMITOR® and is publishing this notice of that determination as required by law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent which claims that animal drug product.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and petitions should be directed to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian J. Malkin, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-1382.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Pub. L. 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Pub. L. 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For animal drug products, the testing phase begins on the earlier date when either a major environmental effects test was initiated for the drug or when an exemption under section 512(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(j)) became effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the animal drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example,

half the testing phase must be subtracted as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for an animal drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(4)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the animal drug product DOMITOR® (medetomidine hydrochloride). DOMITOR® is indicated as a sedative and analgesic in dogs over 12 weeks of age to facilitate clinical examinations, clinical procedures, minor surgical procedures not requiring muscle relaxation, and minor dental procedures not requiring intubation. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for DOMITOR® (U.S. Patent No. 4,670,455) from ORION-YHTYMA OY and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated August 20, 1996, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this animal drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of DOMITOR® represented the first commercial marketing of the product. Shortly thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for DOMITOR® is 4,000 days. Of this time, 2,294 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 1,706 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 512(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act became effective:*

April 8, 1985. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that April 8, 1985, was the date the investigational new animal drug application became effective.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the animal drug product under section 512(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act:* July 19, 1991. The applicant claims July 2, 1991, as the date the new animal drug application (NADA) for DOMITOR® (NADA 140-999) was initially submitted. However, a review of FDA records reveals that the date of FDA's official acknowledgement letter assigning a number to the NADA was July 19, 1991, which is considered to be the initially submitted date for the NADA.

3. *The date the animal drug was approved:* March 19, 1996. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that

NADA 140-999 was approved on March 19, 1996.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension, this applicant seeks 1,095 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published is incorrect may, on or before January 28, 1997, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments and ask for a redetermination. Furthermore, any interested person may petition FDA, on or before May 28, 1997, for a determination regarding whether the applicant for extension acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period. To meet its burden, the petition must contain sufficient facts to merit an FDA investigation. (See H. Rept. 857, part 1, 98th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 41-42, 1984.) Petitions should be in the format specified in 21 CFR 10.30.

Comments and petitions should be submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) in three copies (except that individuals may submit single copies) and identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments and petitions may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: November 20, 1996.

Stuart L. Nightingale,

Associate Commissioner for Health Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-30389 Filed 11-27-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 96E-0271]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; TAXOTERE®

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for TAXOTERE® and is publishing this notice of that determination as required by law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent which claims that human drug product.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and petitions should be directed to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian J. Malkin, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-1382.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Pub. L. 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Pub. L. 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For human drug products, the testing phase begins when the exemption to permit the clinical investigations of the drug becomes effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the human drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for a human drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(1)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the human drug product TAXOTERE® (docetaxel). TAXOTERE® is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer who have progressed during anthracycline-based therapy, or who have relapsed during anthracycline-based adjuvant therapy. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for TAXOTERE® (U.S. Patent No. 4,814,470) from Rhone-Poulenc Rorer S.A., and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's