

products in the EU, Japan, and the United States, and includes input from both regulatory and industry representatives.

The VICH Steering Committee is composed of member representatives from the European Commission, European Medicines Evaluation Agency, European Federation of Animal Health, Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products, the U.S. FDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Animal Health Institute, the Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association, the Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologics, and the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Four observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: One representative from the government of Australia/New Zealand, one representative from the industry in Australia/New Zealand, one representative from the government of Canada, and one representative from the industry of Canada. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH). An IFAH representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

II. Draft Guidance on Study to Marker Residue Depletion Studies to Establish Product Withdrawal Periods

The VICH Steering Committee held a meeting on November 5, 2009, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Studies to Evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals: Marker Residue Depletion Studies to Establish Product Withdrawal Periods," VICH GL48 should be made available for public comment. This draft VICH guidance document is one of a series developed to facilitate the mutual acceptance of residue chemistry data for veterinary drugs used in food-producing animals. This guidance was prepared after consideration of the current requirements for evaluating veterinary drug residues in the EU, Japan, United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

As part of the approval process for veterinary medicinal products in food-producing animals, regulatory authorities recommend data from marker residue depletion studies in order to establish appropriate withdrawal periods in edible products including meat, milk, eggs, and honey. The objective of this guidance is to provide study design recommendations which will facilitate the universal

acceptance of the generated residue depletion data to fulfill this recommendation.

FDA and the VICH Expert Working Group will consider comments about the draft guidance document.

III. Significance of Guidance

This draft guidance, developed under the VICH process, has been revised to conform to FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). For example, the document has been designated "guidance" rather than "guideline." In addition, guidance documents must not include mandatory language such as "shall," "must," "require," or "requirement," unless FDA is using these words to describe a statutory or regulatory requirement.

The draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the agency'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. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of applicable statutes and regulations.

IV. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This draft guidance refers to previously approved collections of information found in FDA regulations. These collections of information are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520). The collections of information in sections 1–2 of the guidance have been approved under OMB control no. 0910–0032.

V. Comments

Interested persons may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**) written or electronic comments regarding this document. Submit a single copy of electronic comments or two paper copies of any mailed comments, except that individuals may submit one paper copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

VI. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the draft guidance at either <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm> or <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: April 6, 2010.

Leslie Kux,

Acting Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2010–D–0165]

International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products; Draft Guidance for Industry on Guidances for the Validation of Analytical Methods Used in Residue Depletion Studies (VICH GL49); Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry (#208) entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Guidances for the Validation of Analytical Methods Used in Residue Depletion Studies," (VICH GL49). This draft guidance has been developed for veterinary use by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). This draft VICH guidance document is intended to provide a general description of the criteria that has been found to be acceptable to the European Union (EU), Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada for the validation of analytical methods used in veterinary drug residue studies.

DATES: Although you can comment on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)), to ensure that the agency considers your comment on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance, submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by May 12, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Communications Staff (HFV–12), Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, 7519 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests.

Submit written comments on the draft guidance to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit

electronic comments to <http://www.regulations.gov>. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Oriani, Center for Veterinary Medicine, (HFV-151), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 240-276-8204, e-mail: julia.oriani@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry (#208) entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Guidances for the Validation of Analytical Methods Used in Residue Depletion Studies," VICH GL49. In recent years, many important initiatives have been undertaken by regulatory authorities and industry associations to promote the international harmonization of regulatory requirements. FDA has participated in efforts to enhance harmonization and has expressed its commitment to seek scientifically based harmonized technical procedures for the development of pharmaceutical products. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and then reduce differences in technical requirements for drug development among regulatory agencies in different countries.

FDA has actively participated in the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use for several years to develop harmonized technical requirements for the approval of human pharmaceutical and biological products among the EU, Japan, and the United States. The VICH is a parallel initiative for veterinary medicinal products. The VICH is concerned with developing harmonized technical requirements for the approval of veterinary medicinal products in the EU, Japan, and the United States, and includes input from both regulatory and industry representatives.

The VICH Steering Committee is composed of member representatives from the European Commission, European Medicines Evaluation Agency, European Federation of Animal Health, Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products, the U.S. FDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Animal Health Institute, the Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association, the Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologics, and the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Four observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: One representative from the government of Australia/New Zealand, one representative from the industry in Australia/New Zealand, one representative from the government of Canada, and one representative from the industry of Canada. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH). An IFAH representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

II. Draft Guidance on the Validation of Analytical Methods Used in Residue Depletion Studies

The VICH Steering Committee held a meeting on November 5, 2009, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Draft Guidances for the Validation of Analytical Methods Used in Residue Depletion Studies," (VICH GL49) should be made available for public comment. This draft VICH guidance document is one of a series developed to facilitate the mutual acceptance of residue chemistry data for veterinary drugs used in food-producing animals. This guidance was prepared after consideration of the current requirements for evaluating veterinary drug residues in the EU, Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

During the veterinary drug development process, residue depletion studies are conducted to determine the concentration of the residue or residues present in the edible products (tissues, milk, eggs, or honey) of animals treated with veterinary drugs. This information is used in regulatory submissions around the world. Submission of regulatory methods (postapproval control methods) and the validation requirements of the regulatory methods are usually well defined by various regulatory agencies worldwide and may even be defined by law. Consequently, it has been difficult to harmonize the procedures used for validation of these methods. However, the residue studies are generally conducted before the regulatory methods have been completed. Often the in-house validated residue methods provide the framework for the methods submitted for regulatory monitoring. Harmonization of the validation requirements for methodology used during residue studies and submitted to the regulatory agencies in support of the maximum residue limits and withdrawal periods should be achievable. It is the intent of this document to describe a validation

procedure that is acceptable to the regulatory bodies of the EU, Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada for use in the residue depletion studies. This validated method may continue on to become the "regulatory method" but that phase of the process will not be addressed in any detail in these guidances.

FDA and the VICH Expert Working Group will consider comments about the draft guidance document.

III. Significance of Guidance

This draft guidance, developed under the VICH process, has been revised to conform to FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). For example, the document has been designated "guidance" rather than "guideline." In addition, guidance documents must not include mandatory language such as "shall," "must," "require," or "requirement," unless FDA is using these words to describe a statutory or regulatory requirement.

The draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the agency'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. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of applicable statutes and regulations.

IV. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This draft guidance refers to previously approved collections of information found in FDA regulations. These collections of information are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). The collections of information in sections 1-3 of this guidance have been approved under OMB control no. 0910-0032.

V. Comments

Interested persons may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**) written or electronic comments regarding this document. Submit a single copy of electronic comments or two paper copies of any mailed comments, except that individuals may submit one paper copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

VI. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the draft guidance at either <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/>

default.htm or *http://www.regulations.gov*.

Dated: April 6, 2010.

Leslie Kux,

Acting Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2010-8230 Filed 4-9-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2010-D-0164]

International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH); Draft Guidance for Industry on Studies to Evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals: Comparative Metabolism Studies in Laboratory Animals (VICH GL47); Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry (#206) entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Studies to Evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals: Comparative Metabolism Studies in Laboratory Animals," VICH GL47. This draft guidance has been developed for veterinary use by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). This draft VICH guidance document is intended to provide recommendations for internationally harmonized procedures to identify the metabolites of veterinary food animal drugs in laboratory animals used for toxicological testing for the purpose of comparison to the residues of the drugs in food animals.

DATES: Although you can comment on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)), to ensure that the agency considers your comment on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance, submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by May 12, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Communications Staff (HFV-12), Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, 7519 Standish Pl.,

Rockville, MD 20855. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your request.

Submit written comments on the draft guidance to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to *http://www.regulations.gov*. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Oriani, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-151), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 240-276-8204, e-mail: *julia.oriani@fda.hhs.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry (#206) entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Studies to Evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals: Comparative Metabolism Studies in Laboratory Animals," VICH GL47. In recent years, many important initiatives have been undertaken by regulatory authorities and industry associations to promote the international harmonization of regulatory requirements. FDA has participated in efforts to enhance harmonization and has expressed its commitment to seek scientifically based harmonized technical procedures for the development of pharmaceutical products. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and then reduce differences in technical requirements for drug development among regulatory agencies in different countries.

FDA has actively participated in the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use for several years to develop harmonized technical requirements for the approval of human pharmaceutical and biological products among the European Union (EU), Japan, and the United States. The VICH is a parallel initiative for veterinary medicinal products. The VICH is concerned with developing harmonized technical requirements for the approval of veterinary medicinal products in the EU, Japan, and the United States, and includes input from both regulatory and industry representatives.

The VICH Steering Committee is composed of member representatives from the European Commission,

European Medicines Evaluation Agency, European Federation of Animal Health, Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products, the U.S. FDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Animal Health Institute, the Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association, the Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologists, and the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Four observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: One representative from the government of Australia/New Zealand, one representative from the industry in Australia/New Zealand, one representative from the government of Canada, and one representative from the industry of Canada. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH). An IFAH representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

II. Draft Guidance on Studies to Evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals

The VICH Steering Committee held a meeting on November 5, 2009, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Studies to Evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-Producing Animals: Comparative Metabolism Studies in Laboratory Animals," VICH GL47 should be made available for public comment. This draft VICH guidance document is one of a series developed to facilitate the mutual acceptance of residue chemistry data for veterinary drugs used in food-producing animals. This guidance was prepared after consideration of the current requirements for evaluating veterinary drug residues in the EU, Japan, United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

The objective of this guidance is to provide recommendations for internationally harmonized procedures to identify the metabolites of veterinary food animal drugs in laboratory animals used for toxicological testing for the purpose of comparison to the residues of the drugs in food animals. The purpose of comparative metabolism studies is to determine if laboratory animals used for toxicological testing have been exposed to the metabolites that humans will be exposed to as residues in products of food animal origin.

The human food safety evaluation of veterinary drug residues assures that food derived from treated animals is