

docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the guidance document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Louis T. Mulligan, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-153), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-827-6984, e-mail: lmulliga@cvm.fda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

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 Harmonization 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, 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 European Union, 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. Guidance on Toxicity Testing

In the **Federal Register** of September 4, 2002 (67 FR 56569), FDA published the notice of availability of the VICH draft guidance, giving interested persons until October 4, 2002 to submit comments. After consideration of comments received, the draft guidance was changed in response to the comments and submitted to the VICH Steering Committee. At a meeting held from October 10 to 11, 2002, the VICH Steering Committee endorsed the guidance for industry, VICH GL31.

A variety of toxicological evaluations are performed to establish the safety of veterinary drug residues in human food. The objective of this guidance is to establish recommendations for an internationally harmonized 90-day repeat-dose testing.

III. Significance of Guidance

This document, 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." Because guidance documents are not binding unless specifically supported by statute or regulation, mandatory words such as "must," "shall," and "will" in the original VICH documents have been substituted with "should" or "it is recommended."

This guidance document represents the agency's current thinking on establishing the safety of veterinary drug residues in human food. This guidance does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and will not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative method may be used as long as it satisfies the requirements of applicable statutes and regulations.

IV. Comments

As with all of FDA's guidances, the public is encouraged to submit written or electronic comments pertinent to this guidance. FDA will periodically review the comments in the docket and where appropriate, will amend the guidance. The agency will notify the public of any such amendments through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**) written or electronic comments regarding this guidance 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 should be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. A copy of the guidance document and received comments are available for public examination in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

V. Electronic Access

Persons with Internet access may obtain copies of the guidance document entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Repeat-Dose (90-Day) Toxicity Testing" (VICH GL31), from the CVM home page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Dated: October 31, 2003.

Jeffrey Shuren,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 03-28371 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 2003D-0474]

International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products; Draft Guidance for Industry on "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Establish a Microbiological Acceptable Daily Intake;" Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability for comments of a draft guidance document for industry (#159) entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Establish a Microbiological ADI" (VICH GL-36). This draft guidance has been developed for veterinary use by the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH).

This draft VICH guidance document provides guidance for assessing the human food safety of residues from veterinary antimicrobial drugs with regard to effects on the human intestinal flora.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by December 15, 2003 to ensure their adequate consideration in preparation of the final document. General comments on agency guidance documents are welcome at any time.

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

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.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>. Comments should be identified with the full title of the draft guidance and the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louis T. Mulligan, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-153), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-827-6984, e-mail: lmulliga@cvm.fda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

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 Harmonization 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, 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 European Union, 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 United States' 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 Microbiological Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI)

The VICH steering committee held a meeting on May 8, 2003, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Establish a Microbiological ADI" (VICH GL-36) should be made available for public comment. This draft VICH guidance provides guidance for assessing the human food safety of residues from veterinary antimicrobial drugs with regard to effects on the human intestinal flora. The objectives of this guidance are as follows: (1) To outline the recommended steps in determining the need for establishing a microbiological ADI; (2) to recommend test systems and methods for determining no-observable adverse effect concentrations (NOAECs) and no-observable adverse effect levels (NOAELs) for the endpoints of health concern; and (3) to recommend a procedure to derive a microbiological ADI. It is recognized that different tests may be useful. The experience gained

with the recommended tests may result in future modifications to this guidance and its recommendations.

FDA and the VICH Safety Working Group will consider comments about the draft guidance document. Information collection is covered under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 0910-0032.

III. Significance of Guidance

This draft document, developed under the VICH process, has been revised to conform to FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115).

The draft VICH guidance (#159) is consistent with the agency's current thinking on the general approach to establish a microbiological ADI. This guidance does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and will not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative method may be used as long as it satisfies the requirements of applicable statutes and regulations.

IV. Comments

This draft guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only and is not intended for implementation at this time. Interested persons may submit written or electronic comments regarding this draft guidance document. Written comments should be submitted to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**). Submit written or electronic comments by December 15, 2003 to ensure adequate consideration in preparation of the final guidance. Two copies of any mailed comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. A copy of the draft guidance and received comments are available for public examination in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

V. Electronic Access

Electronic comments may also be submitted electronically on the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>. Once on this Internet site, select "[docket number] entitled 'Studies to evaluate the safety of residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Establish a Microbiological ADI' (VICH GL-36)" and follow the directions.

Copies of the draft guidance document entitled "Studies to evaluate the safety of residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Establish a Microbiological ADI" (VICH GL-36) may be obtained on

the Internet from the CVM home page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Dated: October 31, 2003.

Jeffrey Shuren,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 03-28373 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 44, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes periodic summaries of proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1129.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Project: The Presidential Initiative Application Forms for Funding Opportunities—New

The Consolidated Health Center Program is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC). Grant funding opportunities are provided for Health Centers under the Presidential Initiative to Expand Health Centers. These funding opportunities use the following application forms: New Access Point Funding (NAP) form, Service Area Competition (SCA) form, Non-Competing Continuation (NCC) form and Competing Continuation (CC) forms, the Service Expansion (SE) form

and the Expanded Medical Capacity (EMC) form for Consolidated Health Centers. These application forms are used by new and current Health Centers to apply for funding.

The five-year President's Initiative to Expand Health Centers will significantly impact 1,200 of the Nation's neediest communities by creating new health center sites. Additional emphasis will be given to improving and strengthening existing sites and expanding existing centers.

BPHC will assist in achieving the Initiative through the various funding opportunities under this Initiative. This year's funding increase supported the development of an additional 100 new access points and 88 significantly expanded access point. New access points will be established by Health Centers targeting the neediest communities using successful Center models. Expanded capacity will be targeted to communities where an existing Health Center's ability to provide care falls short of meeting the full need for services to uninsured and underserved populations. Funding will be provided to Health Centers to support the staff needed to serve a substantial increase in users.

Estimates of annualized reporting burden are as follows:

Type of application form	Number of respondents	Hours per response	Total burden hours
NAP	500	100	50,000
SAC	250	100	25,000
NCC	225	100	22,500
CC	675	100	67,500
EMC	225	45	10,125
SE	450	45	20,250
Total	2325	490	195,375

Send comments to Susan G. Queen, Ph.D., HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-33, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: October 27, 2003.

Jane M. Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

[FR Doc. 03-28375 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4165-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Periodically, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes abstracts of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of the clearance requests submitted to OMB for

review, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Office on (301) 443-1129.

The following request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995:

Proposed Project: Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program (OMB No. 0915-0149)—Revision

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) Program has as its purpose the provision of funds to eligible schools to provide scholarships to full-time, financially needy students from disadvantaged backgrounds enrolled in health professions and nursing programs.

To qualify for participation in the SDS program, a school must be carrying out