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Committee for Human Medicinal Products

## ICH guideline Q4B Annex 8 on evaluation and recommendation of pharmacopoeial texts for use in the ICH regions sterility test - general chapter Step 5

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# ICH guideline Q4B Annex 8 on evaluation and recommendation of pharmacopoeial texts for use in the ICH regions sterility test - general chapter

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## **1. Introduction**

This annex is the result of the Q4B process for the Sterility Test General Chapter.

The proposed texts were submitted by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG).

## **2. Q4B outcome**

### ***2.1. Analytical procedures***

The ICH Steering Committee, based on the evaluation by the Q4B Expert Working Group (EWG), recommends that the official pharmacopoeial texts, Ph. Eur. 2.6.1. Sterility, JP 4.06 Sterility Test, and USP <71> Sterility Tests, can be used as interchangeable in the ICH regions subject to the conditions detailed below. Testing conditions for medical devices, such as sutures, are outside the scope of the ICH recommendation.

2.1.1 Diluting and rinsing fluids should not have antibacterial or antifungal properties if they are to be considered suitable for dissolving, diluting, or rinsing an article under test for sterility.

2.1.2 When testing liquid parenteral preparations with a nominal volume of 100 millilitres in batches of more than 500 containers, the test is considered interchangeable if the minimum number of containers selected is either 20 or is 2 percent of the total number of containers, whichever is lower.

### ***2.2. Acceptance criteria***

The acceptance criteria are harmonized between the three pharmacopoeias.

## **3. Timing of annex implementation**

When this annex is implemented (incorporated into the regulatory process at ICH Step 5) in a region, it can be used in that region. Timing might differ for each region.

## **4. Considerations for implementation**

### ***4.1. General consideration***

When sponsors or manufacturers change their existing methods to the implemented Q4B-evaluated pharmacopoeial texts that are referenced in Section 2.1 of this annex, any change notification, variation, and/or prior approval procedures should be handled in accordance with established regional regulatory mechanisms pertaining to compendial changes.

### ***4.2. FDA consideration***

Based on the recommendation above, and with reference to the conditions set forth in this annex, the pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 2.1 of this annex can be considered interchangeable. However, FDA might request that a company demonstrate that the chosen method is acceptable and suitable for a specific material or product, irrespective of the origin of the method.

### **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 application, renewal or variation application citing the use of the corresponding text from another pharmacopoeia as referenced in Section 2.1, in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex, as fulfilling the requirements for compliance with the Ph. Eur. Chapter, Sterility: 2.6.1., on the basis of the declaration of interchangeability made above.

### **4.4. MHLW consideration**

The pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 2.1 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.

### **4.5. Health Canada consideration**

In Canada any of the pharmacopoeial texts cited in Section 2.1 of this annex and used in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex can be considered interchangeable.

## **5. References used for the Q4B evaluation**

5.1 The PDG Stage 5B sign-off document:

Japanese Pharmacopoeial Forum, Volume 16, number 4 (December 2007).

5.2 The pharmacopoeial references for Residue on Ignition/Sulphated Ash for this annex are:

5.2.1 European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.): Supplement 6.3 (official in January 2009), Sterility (reference 01/2009:20601).

5.2.2 Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP): The 4.06 Sterility Test as it appeared in the partial revision of the JP 15th edition made official March 31, 2009, by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ministerial Notification No. 190.

5.2.3 United States Pharmacopoeia (USP): <71> Sterility Tests as presented in Pharmacopoeial Forum, Volume 34(6), Interim Revision Announcement No. 6, December 1, 2008, official on May 1, 2009.