## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration [Docket No. 94D-0016]

International Conference on Harmonisation; Guideline on Validation of Analytical Procedures: Definitions and Terminology; Availability

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug
Administration (FDA) is publishing a
final guideline entitled "Text on
Validation of Analytical Procedures."
This guideline was prepared under the
auspices of the International Conference
on Harmonisation of Technical
Requirements for Registration of
Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).
The guideline is intended to present
topics that should be considered during
the validation of the analytical
procedures included as part of
registration applications for
pharmaceuticals.

DATES: Effective on March 1, 1995. Submit written comments at any time. ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the guideline to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, rm. 1–23, 12420 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD 20857. Copies of the guideline are available from CDER Executive Secretariat Staff (HFD-8), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regarding the guideline: Roger L. Williams, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-4), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–594–6740.

Regarding ICH: Janet J. Showalter, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-1382.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In recent years, many important initiatives have been undertaken by regulatory authorities and industry associations to promote international harmonization of regulatory requirements. FDA has participated in many meetings designed to enhance harmonization and is committed to seeking scientifically based harmonized technical procedures for pharmaceutical development. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify

and then reduce differences in technical requirements for drug development among regulatory agencies.

ICH was organized to provide an opportunity for tripartite harmonization initiatives to be developed with input from both regulatory and industry representatives. FDA also seeks input from consumer representatives and others. ICH is concerned with harmonization of technical requirements for the registration of pharmaceutical products among three regions: The European Union, Japan, and the United States. The six ICH sponsors are the European Commission; the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Associations; the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare; the Japanese Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association; the Centers for Drug Evaluation and Research and Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA; and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. The ICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (IFPMA).

The ICH Steering Committee includes representatives from each of the ICH sponsors and IFPMA, as well as observers from the World Health Organization, the Canadian Health Protection Branch, and the European Free Trade Area.

Harmonization of the validation of analytical procedures for pharmaceuticals was selected as a priority topic during the early stages of the ICH initiative. In the **Federal Register** of March 1, 1994 (59 FR 9750), FDA published a draft tripartite guideline entitled "Draft Guideline on Validation of Analytical Procedures." The notice gave interested persons an opportunity to submit comments by May 16, 1994.

After consideration of the comments received and revisions to the guideline, a final draft of the guideline was submitted to the ICH Steering Committee and endorsed by the three participating regulatory agencies at the ICH meeting held in October 1994.

The guideline presents a discussion of the characteristics that should be considered during the validation of the analytical procedures included as part of registration applications submitted in Europe, Japan, and the United States. The guideline discusses common types of analytical procedures and defines basic terms, such as "analytical procedure," "specificity," and "precision." These terms and definitions are meant to bridge the differences that often exist between

various compendia and regulators of the European Union, Japan, and the United States.

In the past, guidelines have generally been issued under § 10.90(b) (21 CFR 10.90(b)), which provides for the use of guidelines to state procedures or standards of general applicability that are not legal requirements but are acceptable to FDA. The agency is now in the process of revising § 10.90(b). Therefore, this guideline is not being issued under the authority of § 10.90(b), and it does not create or confer any rights, privileges, or benefits for or on any person, nor does it operate to bind FDA in any way.

As with all of FDA's guidelines, the public is encouraged to submit written comments with new data or other new information pertinent to this guideline. The comments in the docket will be periodically reviewed, and, where appropriate, the guideline will be amended. The public will be notified of any such amendments through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may, at any time, submit written comments on the guideline to the Dockets Management Branch (address above). Two copies of any 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. The guideline and received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The text of the guideline follows:

## **Text on Validation of Analytical Procedures**

## 1. Introduction

This document presents a discussion of the characteristics for consideration during the validation of the analytical procedures included as part of registration applications submitted within the European Union, Japan, and the United States. This document does not necessarily seek to cover the testing that may be required for registration in, or export to, other areas of the world. Furthermore, this text presentation serves as a collection of terms, and their definitions, and is not intended to provide direction on how to accomplish validation. These terms and definitions are meant to bridge the differences that often exist between various compendia and regulators of the European Union, Japan, and the United States.

The objective of validation of an analytical procedure is to demonstrate that it is suitable for its intended purpose. A tabular summation of the characteristics applicable to identification, control of impurities, and assay procedures is included. Other analytical procedures may be considered in future additions to this document.