

the regulatory review period for Tazorac® 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, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian J. Malkin, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-6620.

**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 Tazorac® (tazarotene). Tazorac® is indicated for the topical treatment of patients with stable plaque psoriasis of up to 20 percent body surface area involvement and for the topical treatment of patients

with facial acne vulgaris of mild to moderate severity. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for Tazorac® (U.S. Patent No. 5,089,509) from Allergan, Inc., and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated September 28, 1998, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of Tazorac® represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use 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 Tazorac® is 2,684 days. Of this time, 1,958 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 726 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 355) became effective:* February 8, 1990. The applicant claims February 16, 1990, as the date the investigational new drug application (IND) became effective. However, FDA records indicate that the IND effective date was February 8, 1990, which was 30 days after FDA receipt of the IND.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505 of the act:* June 19, 1995. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new drug application (NDA) for Tazorac® (NDA 20-600) was initially submitted on June 19, 1995.

3. *The date the application was approved:* June 13, 1997. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 20-600 was approved on June 13, 1997.

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 845 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published is incorrect may, on or before July 19, 1999, 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 November 16, 1999, 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: May 4, 1999.

**Thomas J. McGinnis,**

*Deputy Associate Commissioner for Health Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 99-12652 Filed 5-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98E-0840]

### Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; Omnicef® Oral Suspension

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for Omnicef® Oral Suspension 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, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian J. Malkin, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-6620.

**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 Omnicef® Oral Suspension (cefdinir). Omnicef® Oral Suspension is indicated for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate infections caused by susceptible strains of specific microorganisms in specified conditions. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for Omnicef® Oral Suspension (U.S. Patent No. 4,935,507) from Warner-Lambert Co., and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated December 14, 1998, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of Omnicef® Oral Suspension represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use 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 Omnicef® Oral Suspension is 2,745

days. Of this time, 2,406 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 339 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 355) became effective:* June 1, 1990. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the date the investigational new drug application became effective was on June 1, 1990.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505 of the act:* December 31, 1996. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new drug application (NDA) for Omnicef® Oral Suspension (NDA 50-749) was initially submitted on December 31, 1996.

3. *The date the application was approved:* December 4, 1997. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 50-749 was approved on December 4, 1997.

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 1,213 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published is incorrect may, on or before July 19, 1999, 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 November 16, 1999, 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: May 4, 1999.

**Thomas J. McGinnis,**

*Deputy Associate Commissioner for Health Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 99-12654 Filed 5-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

#### Blood Products Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The meeting will be open to the public.

*Name of Committee:* Blood Products Advisory Committee.

*General Function of the Committee:*

To provide advice and recommendations to the agency on FDA's regulatory issues.

*Date and Time:* The meeting will be held on June 17, 1999, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 18, 1999, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Location:* DoubleTree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

*Contact Person:* Linda A. Smallwood, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM-350), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-1448, 301-827-3514, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 19516. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

*Agenda:* On June 17, 1999, in the morning, the committee will discuss and provide recommendations on inadvertent contamination of plasma pools for fractionation: Risk issues. In the afternoon, the committee will discuss strategies for insuring compliance in the plasma fractionation industry, and the supply and demand of plasma derivatives. On June 18, 1999, the committee will hear informational presentations on the blood action plan and the device action plan, discuss and provide recommendations on the topic of deferral of blood donors at risk of malaria, and discuss and provide comments on the topic of HTLV supplemental tests.

*Procedure:* Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact