

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 recommendations 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 recommendations 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.

Two observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: One representative from the Government of Australia/New Zealand and one representative from the industry in Australia/New Zealand. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the Confédération Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Santé Animale (COMISA). A COMISA representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

## II. Draft Guidance on Toxicity Testing

The VICH Steering Committee held a meeting in April 2002, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Repeat-Dose (90-Day) Toxicity Testing" (VICH GL31) should be made available for public comment.

A variety of toxicological evaluations are performed to establish the safety of veterinary drug residues in human food. The objective of this draft guidance is to establish the minimum recommendations for an internationally harmonized 90-day repeat-dose testing strategy for identifying target organ toxicity and the NOAEL for toxicity of veterinary drug residues in human food based upon repeated dose 90-day toxicity studies for identifying target organ toxicity.

FDA and the VICH will consider comments about the draft guidance document. Ultimately, FDA intends to adopt the VICH Steering Committee's final guidance and publish it as a final guidance.

## 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). 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."

The draft guidance represents the agency's current thinking on establishing the safety of veterinary drug residues in human food in a variety of toxicological evaluations. 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 or electronic comments should be submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (address above). Submit written or electronic comments to ensure adequate consideration in preparation of the final guidance. 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. A copy of the draft guidance and received comments are available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## V. Electronic Access

Electronic comments may be submitted on the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>. Once on this Internet site, select "[insert docket number] 'Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Repeat-Dose (90-Day) Toxicity Testing' (VICH GL31) and follow the directions.

Copies of the draft guidance entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Repeat-Dose (90-Day) Toxicity Testing" (VICH GL31) may be obtained on the Internet from the CVM home page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Dated: August 27, 2002.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 02-22408 Filed 9-3-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 02D-0326]

### International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval 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 Testing" (VICH GL33); Request for Comments

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 (#149) entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Testing" (VICH GL33). This draft guidance has been developed by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). This draft guidance outlines a testing approach to assure human food safety following the consumption of food products derived from animals treated with veterinary drugs.

**DATES:** Submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by October 4, 2002 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 document 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. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

Submit written comments on the draft guidance document to the Dockets Management Branch (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](mailto: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 Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use for several years to develop harmonized technical recommendations 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 recommendations 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.

Two observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: One representative from the Government of Australia/New Zealand and one representative from the industry in Australia/New Zealand. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the Confédération Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Santé Animale (COMISA). A COMISA representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

##### **II. Draft Guidance on General Testing**

The VICH Steering Committee held a meeting in April 2002, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Testing" (VICH GL33) should be made available for public comment.

Existing toxicological testing recommendations for veterinary drugs have evolved from the toxicological tests for human medicines, food additives and pesticides. The draft guidance was developed to include tests particularly relevant to the identification of a no-observable adverse effect level for veterinary drugs. The scope of this draft guidance is to identify: (1) Basic tests recommended for all new animal drugs used in food-producing animals in order to assess the safety of drug residues present in human food, (2) additional tests recommended based on specific toxicological concerns associated with the structure, class, mode of action, etc., of the drug and (3) special tests which might be useful in the evaluation of the relevance or the interpretation of data obtained in the basic or additional tests.

FDA and the VICH will consider comments about the draft guidance document. Ultimately, FDA intends to adopt the VICH Steering Committee's final guidance and publish it as a final guidance.

##### **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). For example, the document has been designated a "guidance" rather than a "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."

The draft guidance represents the agency's current thinking to establish the safety of veterinary drug residues in human food in a variety of toxicological evaluations. 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 or electronic comments should be submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (address above). Submit written or electronic comments by October 4, 2002, to ensure adequate consideration in preparation of the final guidance. 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. A copy of the draft guidance and received comments are available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

##### **V. Electronic Access**

Electronic comments may be submitted on the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>. Once on this Internet site, select "[insert docket number]" "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Testing" (VICH GL33) and follow the directions.

Copies of the draft guidance entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: General Approach to Testing" (VICH GL33) may be obtained on the Internet from the CVM home page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Dated: August 27, 2002.

**Margaret M. Dotzel,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 02-22406 Filed 9-3-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 02D-0369]

#### International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH); Draft Guidance for Industry on "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Developmental Toxicity Testing (VICH GL32); Availability; Request for Comments

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability for comment of a draft guidance document for industry (t148) entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Developmental Toxicity Testing" (VICH GL32). This draft guidance document has been developed by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). This draft guidance document provides harmonized guidance on the core recommendation for a developmental toxicity study for the safety evaluation of veterinary drug residues in human food.

**DATES:** Submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance document by October 4, 2002 to ensure their adequate consideration in preparation of the final guidance document. General comments on agency guidance documents are welcome at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance document 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. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

Submit written comments on the draft guidance document to the Dockets

Management Branch (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 document 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](mailto: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 Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use for several years to develop harmonized technical recommendations 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 recommendations 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; U.S. FDA; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Animal Health Institute; Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association; Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologics; and Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Two observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: One representative from the Government of Australia/New Zealand and one representative from industry in Australia/ New Zealand. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the Confédération Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Santé Animale (COMISA). A COMISA representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

##### II. Draft Guidance on Toxicity Testing

The VICH Steering Committee held a meeting in April 2002, and agreed that the draft guidance document entitled "Studies to Evaluate the Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food: Developmental Toxicity Testing" (VICH GL32) should be made available for public comment.

This draft guidance document provides guidance for developmental toxicity testing for those veterinary medicinal products used in food-producing animals. The objective of this draft guidance document is to recommend that developmental toxicity assessment is performed according to an internationally harmonized guidance. This draft guidance describes testing designed to provide information concerning the effects on the pregnant animal and on the developing organism following prenatal exposure.

FDA and the VICH will consider comments about the draft guidance document. Ultimately, FDA intends to adopt the VICH Steering Committee's final guidance and publish it as a final guidance.

##### III. Significance of Guidance

This draft guidance 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."

The draft guidance document represents the agency's current thinking on developmental toxicity testing for those veterinary medicinal products used in food-producing animals. This draft guidance document 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