

PREFACE TO IVMP PROCEDURES AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

The amendments of the Directive 2001/82/EC as described in Directive 2004/28/EC came in to force as of the 31st of October 2005 and should by now have been transposed into the national laws of all EU Member States. The amendments have certain consequences and prescribe certain obligations with respect to the placement on the market of immunological veterinary medicinal products (IVMPS). Article 82 of the Directive allows, for reasons of human or animal health, that a Member State may request samples of each batch of a given IVMP to be submitted to a Competent Authority (CA) for official testing by an Official Medicines Control Laboratory (OMCL) before that batch is released on to the market. This possibility is referred to as Official Control Authority Batch Release (OCABR). In addition the article obliges Member States to mutually recognise each other's test results such that any given batch of IVMP for which OCABR is requested is only tested by one CA/OMCL in the EU/EEA.

A series of documents were elaborated in close collaboration with the EU Commission and the Veterinary Pharmaceutical Committee (VPC) and first adopted at the 18th meeting of the VPC (20 March 2007). The VPC mandated the EDQM and the CA/OMCL network for IVMPs (VBRN, for Veterinary Batch Release Network) to continue to develop specific procedures and guidelines that would facilitate the implementation of the relevant articles of the Directive and specifically to promote the mutual recognition required by Article 82 by enhancing transparency and mutual confidence.

In the interest of amelioration of the free flow of goods and to avoid the unnecessary duplication of effort a procedure has also been elaborated to provide a platform that allows one Member State to recognise the evaluation of protocols, submitted by the MAH under Article 81, by another Member State. The recognition is by agreement between the Member States and is based on good will and mutual confidence. This procedure is referred to as Official Batch Protocol Review (OBPR).

A recommendation document prepared by DG Enterprise and Industry (available at http://ec.europa.eu/health/documents/archives/2007_en.htm) provides additional framework for the application and development of the system and in particular the evolution of the restricted list of products to be tested based on risk analysis.

The procedures and their associated guidelines are applicable in all EU/EEA Member States. OCABR and OBPR performed following these procedures will also be valid in Switzerland in application of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between that country and the EU (Chapter 15 of Annex 1). Reciprocally, OCABR and OBPR performed in Switzerland according to their specific procedure and resulting in the issue of the relevant certificate will be recognised by the EU/EEA.

NOTE FOR USERS

The documents elaborated by the EDQM and the VBRN in close collaboration with the EC Commission and the VPC comprise 2 procedures, 5 model templates for submission of protocols by the MAH and 15 product specific guidelines with restricted test lists for OCABR by an OMCL. The documents representing the current status to be applied are listed below. A Marketing Information Form (MIF) is also available. It should be completed by the MAH and presented, with the batch release certificate (OCABR or OBPR) to the Member State where the batch will be marketed.

The content of the short list of products eligible for OCABR using a common restricted testing scheme remains unchanged since the implementation in 2007.

In 2012 a revision of the product specific guideline for rabies vaccine (inactivated) for veterinary use was adopted by the VBRN. That revision came into force on 01/04/2012.

In addition all of the product specific guidelines have undergone an editorial revision in 2012 to update reference to the EDQM website. Those updates are in force from 01/05/2012.

Procedures: (revised with changes to annexes (as indicated below) as adopted by the CA/OMCL network after consultation with industry and endorsed 20 March 2007 by the VPC); Latest version 2007.

- Procedure for a harmonised application of Article 81 for official batch protocol review of IVMPs in the European Community (revised annexes IIa, IIb and IV).
- Procedure for application of Article 82 for official control authority batch release of immunological veterinary medicinal products in the European Community (revised annexes IIIa, IIIb and IV). *This procedure supersedes the previous procedure III/5372/93 following the endorsement by the VPC 20/03/07.*

Marketing Information Form; Latest version 2010

Manufacturer's protocol for submission of an IVMP to a Competent Authority for OBPR/OCABR (all revised as agreed between CA/OMCL network and industry; new versions endorsed by the VPC 20 March 2007); Latest versions 2007

- Model format for inactivated bacterial vaccines
- Model format for live bacterial vaccines
- Model format for inactivated viral vaccines
- Model format for live viral vaccines
- Model format for tuberculin PPD/brucellin preparations

Product Specific Guidelines; Latest versions 2012

- Aujeszky's Disease Vaccine (inactivated)
- Aujeszky's Disease Vaccine (live)
- Brucellosis Vaccine (live)
- Brucellin Preparations
- Equine Influenza Vaccine (inactivated)
- Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis Vaccine (inactivated)
- Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis Vaccine (live)
- Newcastle Disease Vaccine (inactivated)
- Newcastle Disease Vaccine (live)
- Rabies Vaccine (inactivated) for veterinary use
- Rabies Vaccine for Foxes (live)
- Swine Erysipelas Vaccine (inactivated)
- Swine Erysipelas Vaccine (live)
- Tuberculin PPD, Avian
- Tuberculin PPD, Bovine

The procedures contain templates for certificates of compliance of batches and certificates indicating non-compliance that will be recognised throughout the EU/EEA and Switzerland. They also specify routes of communication within the network to ensure that all Member States are duly informed of relevant issues and they provide models for exchange between the CA and the MAH.

Annex 1 of the procedure for application of Article 82 defines a shortlist of IVMPs for which OMCLs will apply a restricted test list, as allowed in paragraph 3 of the article, should their

Competent Authority require OCABR for those products. The shortlist was established by concerned Member States based on risk assessment and will be evaluated regularly and updated as necessary based on the data available and taking into consideration all elements relevant to the current situation.

The product specific guidelines are to be used by the CA/OMCL when applying OCABR under Article 82 to the given products defined in the shortlist. They describe the restricted list of tests to be performed by the OMCL as agreed on by the concerned Member States.

The model templates for manufacturer's protocols have been developed to harmonise the presentation of relevant information by the MAH when submitting batches for Official Batch Protocol Review (OBPR -Article 81 procedure) or Official Control Authority Batch Release (OCABR -Article 82 procedure). They should be used whenever application of either of these procedures is requested by a Competent Authority. They have been developed for 5 general product types as noted above and should be considered as models only, as explained in the introduction to each template.

A flowchart has been devised as a tool to summarise briefly the decision process to be followed by a Competent Authority with respect to the control of IVMPs. It situates the correct use of the procedures for Article 81 and Article 82 in context, emphasises the need for risk based analysis, and provides an indication of the intended proportionality between the use of the 2 procedures and the potential special situations and exceptions.