



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2014-D-1167]

### Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development; Guidance for Industry; Availability

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a final guidance for industry entitled "Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development." This guidance provides information regarding the process by which generic drug manufacturers and related industry can submit controlled correspondence to FDA requesting information related to generic drug development and the Agency's process for providing communications related to such correspondence. This guidance also describes the process by which generic drug manufacturers and related industry can submit requests to clarify ambiguities in FDA's controlled correspondence response and the Agency's process for responding to those requests. This guidance finalizes the draft guidance announced in the *Federal Register* on November 3, 2017, and replaces the guidance for industry "Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development" issued in September 2015.

**DATES:** The announcement of the guidance is published in the *Federal Register* on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit either electronic or written comments on Agency guidances at any time as follows:

#### *Electronic Submissions*

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.
- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

#### *Written/Paper Submissions*

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions): Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2014-D-1167 for "Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development." Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- Confidential Submissions--To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

You may submit comments on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)).

Submit written requests for single copies of this guidance to the Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10001 New Hampshire Ave., Hillandale Building, 4th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002. Send one

self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for electronic access to the guidance document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Bercu, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 240-402-6902.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a guidance for industry entitled "Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development." This guidance provides information regarding the process by which generic drug manufacturers and related industry can submit to FDA controlled correspondence requesting information related to generic drug development and the Agency's process for providing communications related to such correspondence. This guidance also describes the process by which generic drug manufacturers and related industry can submit requests to clarify ambiguities in FDA's controlled correspondence response and the Agency's process for responding to those requests.

In accordance with the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments (GDUFA) Reauthorization Performance Goals and Program Enhancements Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (GDUFA II Goals Letter or GDUFA II Commitment Letter), FDA agreed to certain review goals and procedures for the review of controlled correspondence received both before and on or after October 1, 2017. The GDUFA II Commitment Letter also defines standard controlled correspondence and complex controlled correspondence, and the guidance provides additional details and recommendations concerning what inquiries FDA considers controlled correspondence for the purposes of meeting the Agency's GDUFA II commitment. In addition, the guidance provides details and recommendations concerning what information requestors should include in a controlled correspondence to facilitate FDA's consideration of and response to the controlled correspondence and what information FDA will provide in its communications to requestors that

have submitted controlled correspondence. The GDUFA II Commitment Letter also states that FDA will review and respond to requests to clarify ambiguities in the controlled correspondence response, and the guidance provides information on how requestors may submit these requests and the Agency's process for responding to them.

This guidance finalizes the draft guidance announced in the *Federal Register* on November 3, 2017 (82 FR 51277), and replaces the guidance for industry "Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development" issued in September 2015. The Agency considered comments on the draft guidance while finalizing the guidance. Revisions include clarification on FDA's practices regarding controlled correspondence that is related to a pending petition, what information should be submitted with a request related to an inactive ingredient, and when FDA may determine an inquiry is a complex controlled correspondence. We also revised the guidance to recommend that requestors submit their controlled correspondence through the CDER Direct NextGen Collaboration Portal.

This guidance is being issued consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The guidance represents the current thinking of FDA on "Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development." It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

## II. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

While this guidance contains no collection of information, it does refer to previously approved FDA collections of information. Therefore, clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521) is not required for this guidance. The previously approved collections of information are subject to review by OMB under the PRA. The collections of information in 21 CFR part 314 have been approved under OMB control number 0910-0797.

## III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the internet may obtain the guidance at either  
<https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>  
or <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: December 14, 2020.

Lauren K. Roth,

Acting Principal Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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