DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2014-D-1981]

Drug Supply Chain Security Act Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs; 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 “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs.” This guidance identifies the standards necessary to facilitate adoption of secure, interoperable, electronic data exchange among the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain, and clarifies the trading partners, products, and transactions subject to such standards. This guidance finalizes the revised draft guidance of the same title, “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs,” issued in July 2022, as required by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act).

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-1981 for “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs.” 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, or to the Office of Communication, Outreach and Development, Center for Biologics Evaluation and
FDA is announcing the availability of a guidance for industry entitled “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs.” The FD&C Act, as amended by the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA), outlines requirements for enhanced drug distribution security, which include the steps to achieve interoperable, electronic tracing of products at the package level. Section 582(g)(1) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 360eee-1(g)(1)) sets forth enhanced drug distribution security requirements for trading partners, including adherence to standards established by FDA for the exchange of transaction information and transaction statements in a secure, interoperable, electronic manner and the verification of product at the package level. Section 582(g)(1) of the FD&C Act states that these enhanced drug distribution security requirements go into effect on November 27, 2023. Additionally, section 582(h)(4)(A) of the FD&C Act specifies that FDA issue a guidance to identify and make recommendations with respect to the standards necessary for adoption in order to support the secure, interoperable, electronic data exchange among the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain that comply with a form and format developed by a widely recognized international standards development organization.
In this guidance, FDA considered the standards established pursuant to sections 505D of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 355e). FDA also considered the standards established pursuant to section 582(a)(2) of the FD&C Act and described in the July 2022 revised draft guidance entitled “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs.” The pilot projects conducted per section 582(j) of the FD&C Act also informed this guidance.

In November 2014, FDA issued a draft guidance for industry, entitled “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs: How to Exchange Product Tracing Information.” In July 2022, FDA issued a revised draft guidance, entitled “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs” (87 FR 40258), that updated the policies articulated in the 2014 draft guidance. This guidance finalizes the July 2022 revised draft guidance. FDA considered comments received on the revised draft guidance as the guidance was finalized. Changes were made to the guidance to improve clarity. This guidance finalizes the policy articulated in the July 2022 revised draft guidance to reflect the enhanced drug distribution security requirements in section 582(g)(1) of the FD&C Act that will go into effect on November 27, 2023, including that only electronic methods of product tracing will be permitted and verification of product at the package level will be required, unless a waiver, exception, or exemption applies. This guidance is intended to also facilitate the creation of a uniform methodology for product tracing while ensuring the protection of confidential commercial information and trade secrets. FDA also published other guidances describing recommendations for enhanced drug distribution security, including the attributes necessary for enhanced product tracing and verification, which should be read in conjunction with this guidance (see FDA’s Drug Supply Chain Security Law and Policies web page at https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-supply-chain-security-act-dscsa/drug-supply-chain-security-act-law-and-policies).
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 “DSCSA Standards for the Interoperable Exchange of Information for Tracing of Certain Human, Finished, Prescription Drugs.” 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

This guidance includes information collection provisions that are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). FDA intends to solicit public comment and obtain OMB approval for any information collections recommended in this guidance that are new or that would represent substantive or material modifications to those previously approved collections of information found in FDA regulations or guidance.

III. Electronic Access


Lauren K. Roth,
Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2023-19182 Filed: 9/5/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/6/2023]