

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL  
REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

**ICH HARMONISED TRIPARTITE GUIDELINE**

**EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF PHARMACOPOEIAL  
TEXTS FOR USE IN THE ICH REGIONS ON  
TABLET FRIABILITY GENERAL CHAPTER  
Q4B ANNEX 9(R1)**

Current *Step 4* version  
dated 27 September 2010

*This Guideline has been developed by the appropriate ICH Expert Working Group and has been subject to consultation by the regulatory parties, in accordance with the ICH Process. At Step 4 of the Process the final draft is recommended for adoption to the regulatory bodies of the European Union, Japan and USA.*

**Q4B Annex 9(R1)  
Document History**

Code	History	Date
Q4B Annex 9	Approval by the Steering Committee under <i>Step 2</i> and release for public consultation.	11 June 2009
Q4B Annex 9	Approval by the Steering Committee under <i>Step 4</i> and recommendation for adoption to the three ICH regulatory bodies.	29 October 2009

**Current *Step 4* version**

Q4B Annex 9(R1)	Integration of the Health Canada Interchangeability Statement under Section 4.5 after approval by the Steering Committee.	27 September 2010
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**EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF PHARMACOPOEIAL TEXTS  
FOR USE IN THE ICH REGIONS**

**ON**

**TABLET FRIABILITY GENERAL CHAPTER**

**ICH Harmonised Tripartite Guideline**

Having reached *Step 4* of the ICH Process at the ICH Steering Committee meeting  
on 29 October 2009, this guideline is recommended for  
adoption to the three regulatory parties to ICH

*(This annex was revised -R1- to include the Interchangeability Statement from Health  
Canada on September 27, 2010)*

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**EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF PHARMACOPOEIAL TEXTS FOR  
USE IN THE ICH REGIONS**

**ON**

**TABLET FRIABILITY GENERAL CHAPTER  
Q4B ANNEX 9(R1)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This annex is the result of the Q4B process for the Tablet Friability General Chapter. The proposed texts were submitted by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG).

**2. Q4B OUTCOME**

**2.1 Analytical Procedures**

The ICH Steering Committee, based on the evaluation by the Q4B Expert Working Group (EWG), recommends that the analytical procedures described in the official pharmacopoeial texts, Ph.Eur. 2.9.7. Friability of Uncoated Tablets, JP General Information 26. Tablet Friability Test, and USP <1216> Tablet Friability, can be used as interchangeable in the ICH regions.

**2.2 Acceptance Criteria**

For interchangeability, the loss of mass for a single determination should be not more than 1.0 percent, unless otherwise specified in the dossier. When three determinations are conducted, then the mean loss of mass for the three determinations should be not more than 1.0 percent, unless otherwise specified in the dossier.

**3. TIMING OF ANNEX IMPLEMENTATION**

When this annex is implemented (incorporated into the regulatory process at ICH *Step 5*) in a region, it can be used in that region. Timing might differ for each region.

**4. CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**4.1 General Consideration**

When sponsors or manufacturers change their existing methods to the implemented Q4B-evaluated pharmacopoeial texts that are referenced in Section 2.1 of this annex, any change notification, variation, and/or prior approval procedures should be handled in accordance with established regional regulatory mechanisms pertaining to compendial changes.

**4.2 FDA Consideration**

Based on the recommendation above, and with reference to the conditions set forth in this annex, the pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 2.1 of this annex can be considered

interchangeable. However, FDA might request that a company demonstrate that the chosen method is acceptable and suitable for a specific material or product, irrespective of the origin of the method.

#### **4.3 EU Consideration**

For the European Union, regulatory authorities can accept the reference in a marketing authorisation application, renewal or variation application citing the use of the corresponding text from another pharmacopoeia as referenced in Section 2.1, in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex, as fulfilling the requirements for compliance with the Ph. Eur. Chapter 2.9.7. on the basis of the declaration of interchangeability made above.

#### **4.4 MHLW Consideration**

The pharmacopoeial texts referenced in Section 2.1 of this annex can be used as interchangeable in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex. Details of implementation requirements will be provided in the notification by MHLW when this annex is implemented.

#### **4.5 Health Canada Consideration**

In Canada, any of the pharmacopoeial texts cited in section 2.1 of this annex and used in accordance with the conditions set out in this annex can be considered interchangeable.

### **5. REFERENCES USED FOR THE Q4B EVALUATION**

**5.1** The PDG Stage 5B sign-off document: *Japanese Pharmacopoeial Forum*, Volume 14, number 1 (March 2005).

**5.2** The pharmacopoeial references for Tablet Friability General Chapter for this annex are:

**5.2.1** *European Pharmacopoeia* (Ph. Eur.): Supplement 6.6 (published June 2009, official January 2010), Friability of Uncoated Tablets (reference 01/2010:20907);

**5.2.2** *Japanese Pharmacopoeia* (JP): The JP General Information 26. Tablet Friability Test as it appears in the JP Fifteenth Edition (March 31, 2006, The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Ministerial Notification No. 285), officially updated by errata published by MHLW at [http://www.std.pmda.go.jp/jpPUB/Data/ENG/jpdata/H201105\\_jp15\\_errata.pdf](http://www.std.pmda.go.jp/jpPUB/Data/ENG/jpdata/H201105_jp15_errata.pdf) on November 5, 2008;

**5.2.3** *United States Pharmacopoeia* (USP): <1216> Tablet Friability, official in USP 32, May 1, 2009.