Executing a Multicompendial Compliance Strategy

for pharmaceutical excipients: developing a 'best practice document'

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What is this about?

An eight-step process which may make life simpler and help you comply with several pharmacopoeial specifications for a given attribute without performing each test or cross validation. Regulations and regulatory guidance supersede the steps outlined in this document. The full version of this document is available on the IPEC Europe website.

1. Pharmacopoeia and Literature Review

Are there enough similarities between methods to make any attribute a candidate for this exercise?

1. Tabulate the methods and specification limits in the selected pharmacopoeias

2. Summarise the techniques employed and the purpose of the methods

3. Compare specifications and evaluate if the methods determine a comparable result

Seek to identify information on manufacturing process-related, historical, or cultural reasons for tested parameters, limits and methods used

Conclude that there are sufficient similarities between the specifications / test methods that it is worthwhile to proceed with the exercise

2. Excipient history

Does experience suggest that methods are robust enough to be compared?

Consider the review of historical control data and complaint information for the selected attribute using the pharmacopoeial specifications and test methods in scope. This may help to determine if the excipient is a suitable candidate for the process

Evaluate if, for this particular excipient, manufactured in a specific plant, one or more specifications / test methods could represent all pharmacopoeias included in the scope of the exercise. Statistical tools may be useful here

3. Quality and Safety

What are the risks if one test is selected to represent those for all pharmacopoeias in scope?

Evaluate the impact that non-compliance with any specification would have on patient safety: consider the health implications if the specification limit of a specific excipient was not met and the excipient subsequently included in a drug product administered to patients

Conclude that selecting any of the identified specifications / test methods to represent all the pharmacopoeias included in the exercise would not create any safety or quality issue

4. Method Comparison

Are the methods testing an attribute in the same way?
Can one method represent all without compromise?

Sample preparation	Reaction principle	Analytical methodology
Method selectivity, precision, accuracy	Specification limits	Type of test

5. Evaluation and Conclusion

Does it work? Is cross validation on multiple testing still required?

1. Assays performed reveal differences, and data are not sufficient to justify equivalency of the methods without further efforts which may include conducting an equivalence or cross validation study

2. An in-house alternative test method could be developed and validated

3. Performing x method(s) by the y method is considered as suitable to confirm compliance with all pharmacopoeial requirements

6. Documentation

The report must be generated and retained as an important GMP Document

Complete documentation for this exercise must be retained and ready for customer and regulatory inspections

Excipient specific documents must carry the appropriate reviewer and approval signatures

7. Certificates of Analysis

May reflect the range of pharmacopoeial compliance

8. Monitoring

Pharmacopoeial Developments may drive change management to review conclusions

Annexes

The document includes examples for Propylene glycol and Titanium Dioxide

Reference pharmacopoeias are:
- European Pharmacopoeia (Ph.Eur.)
- US Pharmacopeia (USP)
- Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP)
- Chinese Pharmacopoeia (ChP)

Where to download?

The full document is available on the IPEC Europe website

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