

VICH GL8 (STABILITY PREMIXES)
November 1999
For implementation at Step 7

STABILITY TESTING FOR MEDICATED PREMIXES

Recommended for Implementation
at Step 7 of the VICH Process
on 16 November 1999
by the VICH Steering Committee

THIS GUIDELINE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE APPROPRIATE VICH EXPERT WORKING GROUP AND HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION BY THE PARTIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VICH PROCESS. AT STEP 7 OF THE PROCESS THE FINAL DRAFT IS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION TO THE REGULATORY BODIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN AND USA.

STABILITY TESTING FOR MEDICATED PREMIXES

1. General

The VICH Harmonized Tripartite Guidelines covering the Stability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products (hereafter referred to as the parent guideline) references an annex for Medicated Premixes. This document is an annex to the parent guideline and addresses the recommendations for stability testing of veterinary medicinal Medicated Premix drug products. The parent guideline (VICH GL3) provides a general indication of the information on product stability generated, but the annex for Medicated Premixes leaves sufficient flexibility to encompass a variety of different practical and scientific considerations that are specific to the characteristics of the drug products being evaluated. Other stability studies which might be important to consider like stability in relation to conditioning and pelleting, segregation and homogeneity studies are not within the scope of this guideline.

2. Preamble

The guideline primarily addresses the generation of acceptable stability information for submission in Registration Applications for medicated premix drug products containing new molecular entities. Medicated Premixes are intended for oral administration following incorporation into animal feed. The guideline only pertains to Medicated Premixes, and does not currently seek to cover information required for products manufactured from medicated premixes. Stability studies carried out with a medicated premix should be in line with the parent guideline. However, the application of the parent guideline may be limited in some instances. This guideline therefore describes those areas where there may be differences in the stability data package for medicated premixes.

3. Storage Test Conditions and Test Parameters

Medicated Premixes are recommended to be tested at $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 60% RH \pm 5% (long-term testing) and $40^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 75% RH \pm 5% (accelerated testing) and with the same schedule intervals as described in the Parent Guideline for drug product. Other storage conditions are allowable if justified. Where "significant change" occurs due to accelerated testing, additional testing at an intermediate condition e.g., $30^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 60% RH \pm 5% should be conducted. "Significant change" at the accelerated condition is defined as failure to meet specifications. Evidence is necessary to demonstrate the stability of the Medicated Premix before incorporation into an additional feed. The shelf-life specification of a Medicated Premix should include necessary stability indicating test parameters.

4. Packaging Materials

The testing should be carried out in the final packaging proposed for marketing when practicable. The use of smaller comparable containers simulating the actual market packaging may be justified.

5. Glossary

Carrier - An edible material to which drug substances are added to facilitate uniform incorporation into feed.

Medicated Premix (Type A Medicated Article) - A Medicated Premix is a veterinary medicinal product consisting of a mixture of one or more drug substances, generally with a carrier, that is prepared to facilitate oral administration of the drug to animals when mixed with feed.

For additional definitions, please refer to regional guidance or regulations.