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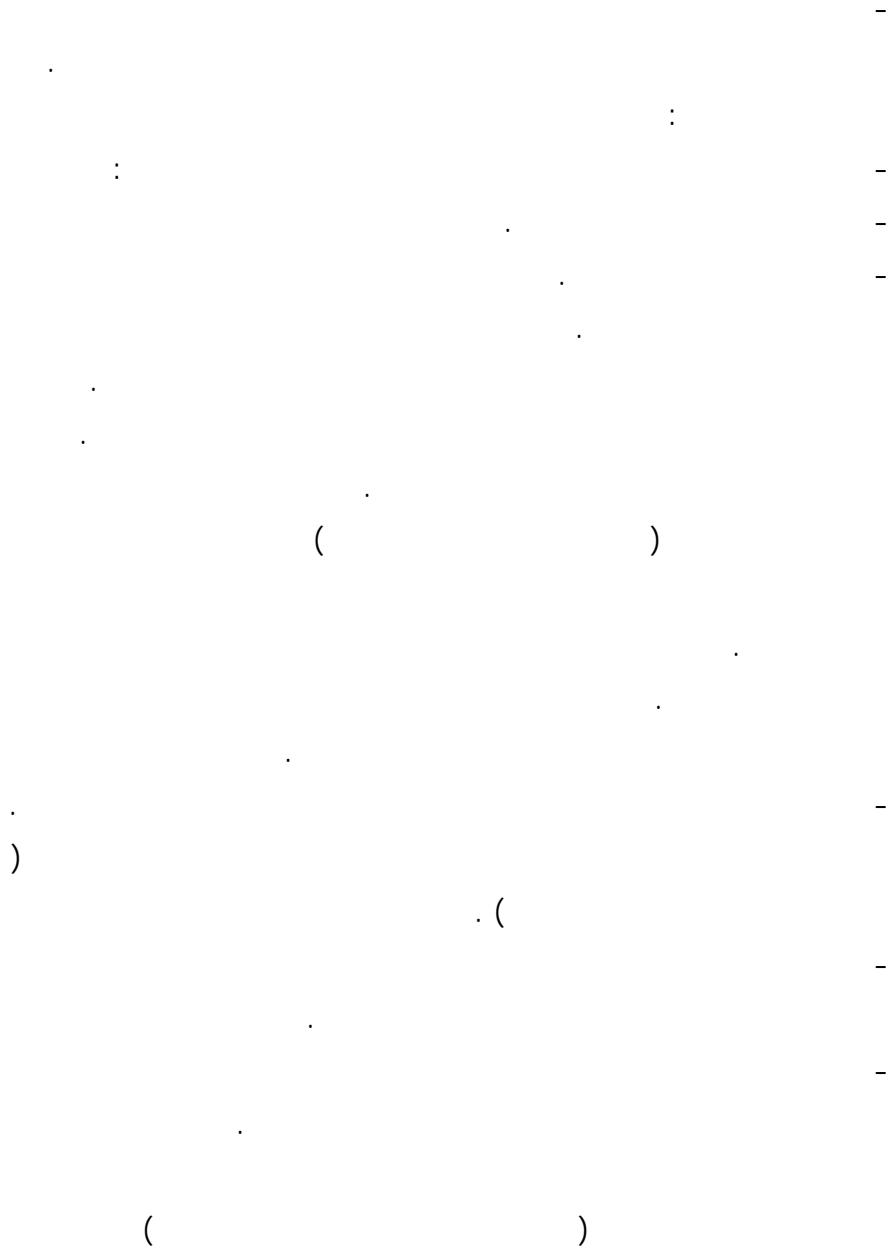
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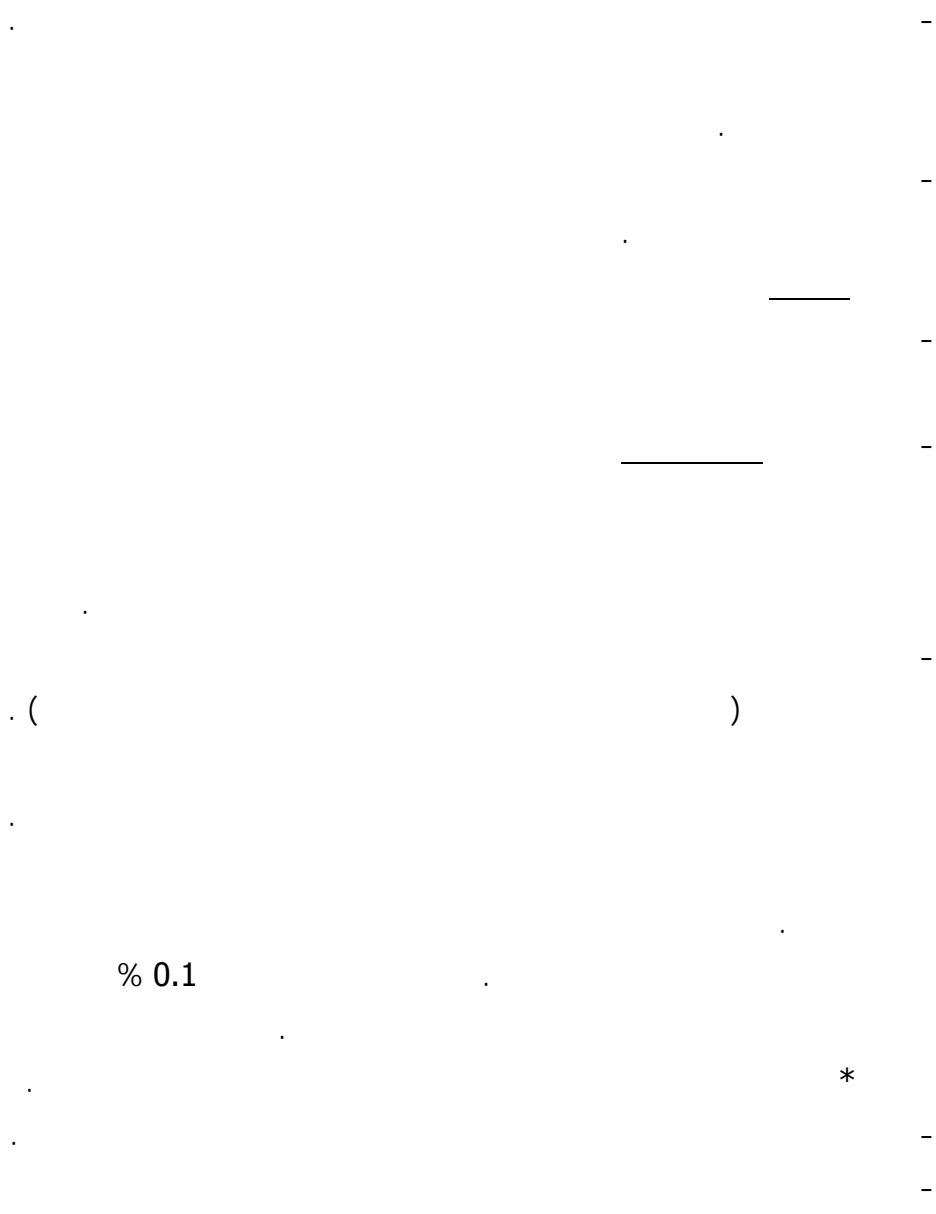
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**United Arab Emirates**

**Guide to Good  
Manufacturing  
Practice (GMP)**

**For Manufacturers  
of Medicinal  
Products**

**2000**

## **Introduction by His Excellency, The Minister for Health**

The Pharmaceutical industry is now highly skilled at producing large quantities of highly potent medicines. The patients who take these medicines must be reassured that everything possible has been done to ensure that they are of the highest quality.

The simple testing of finished products is not enough to provide this guarantee. Only a comprehensive quality system that promotes a philosophy of Quality Assurance will minimize the risk of defective medicines.

Here in the United Arab Emirates we receive medicines from all over the world as well as from the rapidly developing pharmaceutical industry in the gulf region. In the UAE we have advanced manufacturing sites in several emirates.

We expect an equally high standard of medical product wherever it is manufactured and the WHO has developed and now operates a scheme that provides us with that assurance for imported medicines. The responsibility for enforcing GMP within the UAE pharmaceutical industry rests with the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health inspects UAE Pharmaceutical factories on a regular basis. These UAE Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) provide those factories with a clear and detailed description of what our inspectors expect to find when inspecting a factory.

I congratulate the Department of Drug Control on the production of these guidelines and look forward to them being implemented throughout the UAE Pharmaceutical industry. This, in turn, will reassure patients that medicines made in the UAE are safe, effective and conform to the highest international standards.

**Hamed Abdul Rahman Al Midfa**

Minister for Health

**Introduction from Dr. Easa Ahmed Al Mansoori,  
Director of Drug Control**

Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are now well defined. The World Health Organization (WHO), the European Union and the United States Food and Drug Administration have produced published guidelines for GMP. Any differences between these guides are now outnumbered by the similarities and are usually differences in emphasis rather than standards of practice. It describes the good practices to be followed when preparing medicinal products for human consumption and is based upon the best practices described by the World Health Organization<sup>i</sup>, the US Food and Drug Administration<sup>ii</sup>, the European Union<sup>iii</sup>, the UK Medicines Control Agency<sup>iv</sup>. Several GCC countries have published their own guidelines over the last 10 years and these were incorporated into the GCC guidelines on GMP published in 1999. We have also studied this document. These guidelines are therefore expected to complement any existing international guidelines.

This booklet provides detailed and up to date guidance for pharmaceutical manufacturers. It is directly relevant to United Arab Emirates based manufacturers of medicinal products and their senior technical managers; it also provides guidance for companies who are seeking registration with the UAE Ministry of Health.

These guidelines are intended to protect the interest of consumers in the United Arab Emirates and in those countries that rely on medicinal products manufactured in the United Arab Emirates. The Department of Drug Control has a programme of GMP inspections during which the work of manufacturers is compared to these guidelines. We are looking to cooperate with the industry and encourage them to attain a high level of quality assurance; however, failure to comply with these guidelines will invoke severe penalties.

The Ministry of Health is proud of the high standard of Pharmaceutical manufacturing in the United Arab Emirates and recognizes the importance of Quality Management in maintaining such excellence. H.E. the Minister described the Ministry of Health's commitment to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for Health in Decree number 2962 of 1995. That decree provided outline guidance on GMP and referred the reader to these detailed guidelines.

**Dr. Easa Ahmed Jakka Al Mansoori**  
Director of Drug Control Department  
Ministry of Health, United Arab Emirates

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<sup>a</sup> WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations Thirty-second Report  
Technical Report Series, No. 823 World Health Organization 1992

<sup>b</sup> Food and Drug Administration, Dept. of Health and Human Services,  
USA  
current GMP in Manufacturing, Processing, Packing or holding of drugs  
Federal Code 21 CFR 210.1

<sup>c</sup> Commission of the European Communities.  
The Rules governing medicinal products in the EC. Volume IV Good  
Manufacturing Practice for medicinal products EU Directive 75/319/EEC  
Chapter IV and subsequent annexes

<sup>d</sup> Medicine Control Agency, United Kingdom  
Rules and Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Distributors  
1997

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## **Acknowledgements**

This document is the result of much hard work.

For this 2000 edition we gratefully acknowledge the contributions of:

- Mr. Michael Fahey, Pharmacy Adviser;
- Dr. Khalid Ibrahim Nashat, Pharmacy Consultant, Technical Affairs
- Dr. Hasan Hamdy, License section

We are also grateful for the comments and advice received from the WHO Drug Management Program and the French Medicine Inspection agency, Agence Du Medicament, who have both reviewed key parts of this document to ensure that it reflects the most up to date information and guidance.

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## **Glossary**

The definitions given below apply to the words as used in this document. They may have different meanings in other contexts.

### **Air-lock**

An enclosed space with two or more doors, and which is interposed between two or more rooms, e.g. of differing classes of cleanliness, for the purpose of controlling the air-flow between those rooms when they need to be entered. An air lock is designed for and used by either people or goods.

### **Batch (or lot)**

A defined quantity of starting material, packaging material or product processed in one process or series of processes so that it could be expected to be homogeneous.

Note: To complete certain stages of manufacture, it may be necessary to divide a batch into a number of sub-batches, which are later brought together to form a final homogeneous batch. In the case of continuous manufacture, the batch must correspond to a defined fraction of the production, characterized by its intended homogeneity.

### **Batch Number (or Lot number)**

A distinctive combination of numbers and/or letters which specifically identifies a batch.

### **Bulk product**

Any product which has completed all processing stages up to, but not including, final packaging.

### **Calibration**

The set of operations which establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure, and the corresponding known values of a reference standard.

### **Clean area**

An area with defined environmental control of particulate and microbial contamination, constructed and used in such a way as to reduce the introduction, generation and retention of contaminants within the area. (Note: different levels of control are described in Annex 1)

### **Cross contamination**

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Contamination of a material or of a product with another material or product

**Finished product**

A medicinal product which has undergone all stages of production, including packaging into its final container.

**In-process control**

Checks performed during production in order to monitor and if necessary to adjust the process to ensure that the product conforms to its specification. The control of the environment or equipment may also be regarded as a part of in-process control.

**Intermediate product**

Partly processed material that must undergo further manufacturing steps before it becomes a bulk product.

**Manufacture**

All operations of purchase of materials and products, production, quality control, release, storage, distribution of medicinal products and the related controls.

**Manufacturer**

Holder of the manufacturing authorization issued by His Excellency the Minister for Health.

**Manufacturing authorization**

Registration of a medicine. A legal document issued by His Excellency the Minister for Health that describes the full and exact details of the final product that is approved for sale in the UAE.

**Medicinal product**

Any substance or combination of substances presented for treating or preventing disease in human beings or animals. This also includes any substance given to human beings or animals with a view to making a medical diagnosis or to restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions in human beings or in animals.

**Packaging**

All operations, including filling and labeling which a bulk product has to undergo in order to become a finished product.

Note: Sterile filling would not normally be regarded as part of packaging, the bulk product being filled, but not finally packaged, primary containers.

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**Packaging material**

Any material employed in the packaging of a medicinal product, excluding any outer packaging used for transportation or shipment. Packaging materials are referred to as primary or secondary according to whether or not they are intended to be in direct contact with the product.

**Procedures**

Description of the operations to be carried out, the precautions to be taken and measures to be applied directly or indirectly related to the manufacture of a medicinal product.

**Production**

All operations involved in the preparation of a medicinal product, from receipt of materials, through processing and packaging, to its completion as a finished product.

**Quality assurance**

See Chapter 1.

**Quality control**

See Chapter 1 – Quality Management

**Quarantine**

The status of starting or packaging materials, intermediate, bulk or finished products isolated physically or by other effective means whilst awaiting a decision on their release or refusal.

**Reconciliation**

A comparison, making due allowance for normal variation, between the amount of product or materials theoretically and actually produced or used.

**Record**

See Chapter 4.-Documentation

**Recovery**

The introduction of all or part of previous batches (of the required quality) into another batch at a defined stage of manufacture.

**Reprocessing**

The reworking of all or part of a batch of products of an unacceptable quality from a defined stage of production so that its quality may be rendered acceptable by one or more additional operations.

**Return**

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Sending back to the manufacturer or distributor of a medicinal product that may or may not present a quality defect.

**Specification**

A document describing in detail the requirements with which the products or materials used or obtained during manufacture have to conform. Specifications serve as a basis for quality.

**Standard operating procedure (SOP)**

An authorized written procedure giving instructions for performing operations not necessarily specific to a given product or material but of a more general nature (e.g. equipment operation, maintenance and cleaning; validation; cleaning of premises and environmental control; sampling and inspection). Certain SOPs may be used to supplement product-specific master and batch production documentation.

**Starting Material**

Any substance of a defined quality used in the production of a pharmaceutical product, but excluding packaging materials.

**Sterility**





Sterility is the absence of living organisms. The conditions of the sterility test are given in the officially recognized references such as the European Pharmacopoeia.

**Validation**

The documented act of proving that any procedure, process, equipment, material, activity, or system actually leads to the expected result.

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## **Chapter 1. Quality Management**

-  Principle
-  Quality Assurance (QA)
-  Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for medicinal products
-  Quality Control (QC)



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## 1. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

### Principles

A manufacturer who has been authorised to market a medicinal product in the United Arab Emirates must manufacture medicinal products so as to ensure that they are fit for their intended use, comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and do not place patients at risk due to inadequate safety, quality or efficacy. The attainment of this quality objective is the responsibility of senior management and requires the participation and commitment by staff in many different departments and at all levels within the company, by the company's suppliers and by the distributors.

To achieve the quality objective reliably there must be a comprehensively designed and correctly implemented system of Quality Assurance incorporating Good Manufacturing Practice and thus Quality Control. It should be fully documented and its effectiveness monitored. All parts of the Quality Assurance system should be adequately resourced with competent personnel, and suitable and sufficient premises, equipment and facilities.

**1.1** The [basic concepts of Quality Assurance, Good Manufacturing Practice \(GMP\) and Quality Control](#) are inter-related. [They are described here in order to emphasise their relationships and their fundamental importance to the production and control of medicinal products.](#)

### Quality Assurance

**1.2** Quality Assurance is a wide-ranging concept which covers all matters which individually or collectively influence the quality of a product. It is the sum total of the organized arrangements made with the objective of ensuring that medicinal products are of the quality required for their intended use. Quality Assurance therefore incorporates

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Good Manufacturing Practice plus other factors outside the scope of this guide.

The system of Quality Assurance appropriate for the manufacture of medicinal products should ensure that:

- i.** medicinal products are designed and developed in a way that takes account of the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Laboratory Practice;
- ii** production and control operations are clearly specified and Good Manufacturing Practice adopted;
- iii.** managerial responsibilities are clearly specified;
- iv.** arrangements are made for the manufacture, supply and use of the correct starting and packaging materials;
- v.** all necessary controls on intermediate products, and any other in-process controls and validations are carried out;
- vi.** the finished product is correctly processed and checked, according to the defined procedures;
- vii.** medicinal products are not sold or supplied before a [Senior Technical Manager](#) has certified that each production batch has been produced and controlled in accordance with the requirements of the MOH registration and any other regulations relevant to the production, control and release of medicinal products;
- viii.** satisfactory arrangements exist to ensure, as far as possible, that the medicinal products are stored, distributed and subsequently handled so that quality is maintained throughout the shelf-life;
- ix.** there is a procedure for Self-Inspection and/or quality audit which regularly appraises the effectiveness and applicability of the Quality Assurance system.

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## **Good Manufacturing Practice for Medicinal Products (GMP)**

**1.3** Good Manufacturing Practice is that part of Quality Assurance which ensures that products are consistently produced and controlled to the quality standards appropriate to their intended use and as required by the product specification registered by the Ministry of Health. Good Manufacturing Practice is concerned with both production and quality control. The basic requirements of GMP are that:

**i.** all manufacturing processes are clearly defined, systematically reviewed in the light of experience and shown to be capable of consistently manufacturing medicinal products of the required quality and complying with their specifications;

**ii.** critical steps of manufacturing processes and significant changes to the process are validated;

**iii.** all necessary facilities for GMP are provided including:

- appropriately qualified and trained personnel;
- adequate premises and space;
- suitable equipment and services;
- correct materials, containers and labels;
- approved procedures and instructions;
- suitable storage and transport;

**iv.** instructions and procedures are written in an instructional form in clear and unambiguous language, specifically applicable to the facilities provided;

**v.** operators are trained to carry out procedures correctly;

**vi.** records are made, manually and/or by recording instruments, during manufacture which demonstrate that all the steps required by the

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defined procedures and instructions were in fact taken and that the quantity and quality of the product was as expected, Any significant deviations are fully recorded and investigated;

- vii.** records of manufacture including distribution (which enable the complete history of a batch to be traced) are retained in a comprehensible and accessible form;
- viii.** the distribution of the products minimises any risk to their quality;
- ix.** a system is available to recall any batch of product from sale or supply:
- x.** complaints about marketed products are examined, the causes of quality defects investigated and appropriate measures taken in respect of the defective products and to prevent reoccurrence.

### **Quality Control**

**1.4** Quality Control is that part of Good Manufacturing Practice which is concerned with sampling, specifications, testing, and, within the organization, documentation and release procedures. It ensures that the necessary and relevant tests are actually carried out and materials are not released for use, nor products released for sale or supply, until their quality has been judged to be satisfactory. The basic requirements of Quality Control are that:

- i.** adequate facilities, trained personnel and approved procedures are available for sampling, inspecting and testing starting materials, packaging materials, intermediate, bulk, and finished products, and where appropriate for monitoring environmental conditions for GMP purposes;
- ii.** samples of starting materials, packaging materials, intermediate products, bulk products and finished products are taken by personnel and by methods approved by Quality Control;
- iii.** test methods are validated;
- iv.** records are made, manually and/or by recording instruments, which demonstrate that all the required sampling, inspecting and






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testing procedures were actually carried out. Any deviations are fully recorded and investigated;

- v. the finished products contain active ingredients complying with the qualitative and quantitative standards registered by the Ministry of Health, are of the purity required, and are enclosed within their proper containers and correctly labeled;
- vi. records are made of the results of inspection and that testing of materials, intermediate, bulk and finished products is formally assessed against specification. Product assessment includes a review and evaluation of relevant production documentation and an assessment of deviations from specified procedures;
- vii. no batch of product is released for sale or supply prior to certification by a [Senior Technical Manager](#) that it is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health;
- viii. sufficient reference sample of starting materials and products are retained to permit future examination the product if necessary and that the product is retained in its final pack unless exceptionally large packs are produced.

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## Chapter 2. Personnel

-  Principle
-  General
-  Key Personnel
-  Training
-  Personnel hygiene

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## **PERSONNEL**

### **Principles**

The establishment and maintenance of a satisfactory system of quality assurance and the correct manufacture of medicinal products relies upon people. For this reason there must be sufficient [Senior Technical Managers](#) to carry out all the tasks which are the responsibility of the manufacturer. Individual responsibilities should be clearly understood by the individuals and recorded. All personnel should be aware of the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice that affect them and receive initial and continuing training, including hygiene instructions relevant to their needs.

### **General**

The manufacturer should have an adequate number of personnel with the necessary qualifications and practical experience. The responsibilities placed on any one individual should not be so extensive as to present any risk to quality,

The manufacturer must have an organization chart. People in responsible positions should have specific duties recorded in written job descriptions and adequate authority to carry out their responsibilities. Their duties may be delegated to designated deputies of a satisfactory qualification level. There should be no gaps or unexplained overlaps in the responsibilities of those personnel concerned with the application of Good Manufacturing Practice.

### **Key Personnel**

- 2.1 Key Personnel include the head of Production, the head of Quality Control. and, if at least one of these persons is not responsible for the duties described in section 2.2 below, the [Senior Technical Manager\(s\)](#) designated for the purpose. Normally key posts should be occupied by full-time personnel. The heads of Production and Quality Control must be independent from each other. In large organisations

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it may be necessary to delegate some of the functions listed.

Senior Technical manager

**Duties of the Senior Technical manager**

- 2.2 A Senior Technical Manager(s) may have a range of other duties owing to their experience and seniority; however, these must not compromise the following duties which can be summarized as follows;
- (i.) for medicinal products manufactured within the United Arab Emirates , a Senior Technical Manager must ensure that each batch has been produced and tested/checked in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Health as described in the marketing authorization ;
  - (ii.) for medicinal Products manufactured outside the United Arab Emirates and repackaged in the United Arab Emirates, a Senior Technical Manager must ensure that each batch has undergone, in the importing country, the testing required by the Ministry of Health ;
  - (iii.) a Senior Technical Manager must certify in a register or equivalent document, as operations are carried out and before any release, that each production batch satisfies the provisions of the United Arab Emirates GMP guide,

**Responsibilities of the Senior Technical Manager**

- 2.3 The persons responsible for these duties must meet the qualifications stated by ministerial decree. They shall be permanently and continuously at the disposal of the holder of the manufacturing authorization to carry out their responsibilities. Their responsibilities may be delegated, but only to other Senior Technical Manager(s),
- (i.) Whilst each Senior Technical Manager has a personal and professional responsibility for ensuring that the various checks and tests have been carried out, the detail of this work may be delegated to appropriately



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trained and experienced staff. Ultimately the Senior Technical Manager must be satisfied either directly or, more usually, by the proper operation of quality systems which include appropriate approvals, audits, self-inspections and spot checks that manufacturing and testing has complied with relevant requirements. Batch certification without such adequate steps is evidence of professional misconduct.

- (ii.) The Senior Technical Manager should be available at the manufacturing site for a sufficient proportion of the working time in order to be appraised of manufacturing conditions and for control of any delegation.
- (iii.) Senior Technical Manager(s) have duties not only to their employer but also to the Ministry of Health and it's inspectorate. They must ensure through line management that appropriate senior company executives are fully aware of any manufacturing and/or testing difficulties which may cast doubt on the release of batches or post facto might require product recall.
- (iv.) If there is any aspect of the QA system which is not in accordance with the Directives and Guidelines for Good Manufacturing Practice then the senior technical manager has a responsibility to bring this to the attention of Senior Management.
- (v.) There should be adequate resources and to ensure that systems and communication are working, Senior Technical Manager(s) also have a duty to make representations to management, if necessary in writing, whenever standards appear to be falling short of Good Practice. This responsibility should be reflected by appropriate wording in the Senior Technical Manager's job description.
- (vi.) Senior Technical Manager(s) should establish a good working relationship with Ministry of Health inspectors

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and a far as possible provide information on request during site inspections.

### **MOH Criteria**

- 2.4 The Ministry of Health will verify (a) and (b) before accepting a nomination for a person to be act as a Senior Technical Manager;
- (i.) The Senior Technical Manager has demonstrated familiarity with all aspects of the knowledge of GMP.
  - (ii.) The Senior Technical Manager has satisfied the Ministry of Health requirements for Pharmacist registration
- 2.5 The following assumptions are made by the Ministry of Health when accepting a Senior Technical Manager on the application for a Manufacturer's License:
- In cooperation with their employer, Senior Technical Manager(s) will take actions necessary to maintain and extend their technical and professional competence when they are engaged at a particular time.
  - In cases where undue pressures to depart from professional and technical standards cannot be counterbalanced by reference to this and other relevant Codes of Practice, Senior Technical Manager(s), preferably having informed their employer first, should contact the Ministry of Health for confidential advice.

### **Head of Production**

- 2.6 The head of the Production Department is primarily responsible for supervising the manufacturing process of specified products according to agreed operating procedures and will generally have the following responsibilities;

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- (i.) to ensure that products are stored according to the appropriate documentation in order to maintain the required quality;
  - (ii.) to approve the instructions relating to Production operations and to ensure their strict implementation;
  - (iii.) to ensure that the production records are evaluated and signed by an authorised person before they are sent to the Quality Control Department;
  - (iv.) to check the maintenance of his department, premises and equipment;
  - (v.) to ensure that the appropriate validations are done;
  - (vi.) to ensure that the required initial and continuing training of his departmental personnel is carried out and adapted according to need.

### **Head of Quality Control**

2.7 The head of the Quality Control Department generally has the following responsibilities;

- (i.) to approve or reject, as he sees fit, any starting materials, packaging materials, intermediate, bulk and finished products;
- (ii.) to evaluate batch records;
- (iii.) to ensure that all necessary testing is carried out;
- (iv.) to approve specifications, sampling instructions, test methods and other Quality Control Procedures;
- (v.) to approve and monitor any contract analysts;
- (vi.) to check the maintenance of his department, premises and equipment;
- (vii.) to ensure that the appropriate validations are done;

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- (viii.)to ensure that the required initial and continuing training of his departmental personnel is carried out and adapted according to need.
- 2.8 Other duties of the Quality Control Department are summarized in Chapter 6 -- Quality Control
- 2.9 The heads of Production and Quality Control generally have some shared, or jointly exercised responsibilities relating to quality. These may include, subject to Ministerial decree or circular:
- the authorisation of written procedures and other documents, including amendments;
  - the monitoring and control of the manufacturing environment;
  - plant hygiene;
  - process validation;
  - training;
  - the approval and monitoring of suppliers of materials;
  - the approval and monitoring of contract manufacturers;
  - the designation and monitoring of storage conditions for materials and products;
  - the retention of records;
  - the monitoring of compliance with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices;
  - the inspection, investigation and taking of samples, in order to monitor factors which may affect product quality.

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## Training

- 2.10 The manufacturer should provide training for all the personnel whose duties take them into production areas or into control laboratories (including the technical, maintenance and cleaning personnel), and for the other personnel whose activities could affect the quality of the product.
- 2.11 Besides the basic training on the theory and practice of Good Manufacturing Practice, newly recruited personnel should receive training appropriate to the duties assigned to them. Continuing training should also be given, and it's practical effectiveness should be periodically assessed. Training programs should be available, approved by either the head of Production or the head of Quality Control, as appropriate. Training records should be kept.
- 2.12 Personnel working in areas where contamination is a hazard, e.g. clean areas or areas where highly active, toxic, infectious or sensitizing materials are handled, should be given specific training.
- 2.13 Visitor or untrained personnel should, preferably not be taken into the production and Quality Control areas. If this is unavoidable, they should be given information in advance, particularly about personal hygiene and the prescribed protective clothing; they should be closely supervised.
- 2.14 The concept of Quality Assurance and all the measures capable of improving its understanding and implementation should be fully discussed during the training sessions.
- 2.15 Senior Technical Manager(s) have a personal and professional duty to keep their knowledge and

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experience up to-date and in line with the current state of pharmaceutical quality management product manufacturing and control technology and general work practices. It is expected that appropriate records will be kept to reflect this important longer-term aspect of the Senior Technical Manager's continued performance of professional duties.

- 2.16 In the event of a Senior Technical Manager having a major change of job responsibilities, for example, from a company making only sterile dose forms to one with a wider range of products including solid dose forms, then the senior technical manager and the top management of the company involved should recognise the possible need for additional education and training and take adequate steps to demonstrate that proper provision is made for this.

#### **Conduct of Senior Technical Managers**

- 2.17 Ministerial decree #330, 1986 requires that the person responsible for a pharmaceutical manufacturing site (considered to be the Senior Technical Manager in these guidelines) must be registered as a pharmacist in the United Arab Emirates. This thereby makes such persons subject to professional censure as described in Federal Law #4 and could face fines and / or license suspension upon the commencement of administrative or disciplinary procedures against him for failure to fulfill his obligations.
- 2.18 As stated In ministerial decree #330, 1986, the license holder and the person acting as a Senior Technical Manager, must satisfy the licensing committee that the person so acting satisfies the requirements (in respect of qualifications and experience). They will have the opportunity of

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making representations to the Ministry of Health orally or in writing.

2.19 The Senior Technical Manager has a personal and professional responsibility for ensuring that the various tests and checks have been carried out. If it were found that a Senior Technical Manager had certified that this happened without taking adequate steps so to satisfy himself/herself, this failure might be a matter for consideration by the Ministry of Health who would also consider inviting the Senior Technical Manager to defend their actions to the Ministry of Health licensing committee.

2.20 The Ministry of Health has established disciplinary systems to deal with cases of possible misconduct. One of the powers is to remove the name of an individual from the pharmacists register and from the Manufacturer's License.

### **Personnel Hygiene**

2.21 Detailed hygiene programmes should be established and adapted to the different needs within the factory. They should include procedures relating to the health, hygiene practices and clothing of personnel. These procedures should be understood and followed in a very strict way by every person whose duties take him into the production and control areas. Hygiene programmes should be promoted by management and widely discussed during training sessions.

2.22 All personnel should receive medical examination upon recruitment. It must be the manufacturer's responsibility that there are instructions ensuring that health conditions which are of relevance to the quality of products come to the manufacturer's knowledge. After the first medical examination,

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- examinations should be carried out when necessary for the work and personal health.
- 2.23 Steps should be taken to ensure as far as is practicable that no person affected by an infectious disease or having open lesions on the exposed surface of the body is engaged in the manufacture of medicinal products.
- 2.24 Every person entering the manufacturing areas should wear protective garments appropriate to the operations to be carried out.
- 2.25 Eating, drinking, chewing, smoking, or the storage of food, drink, smoking materials or personal medication in the production and storage areas should be prohibited. In general, any unhygienic practice within the manufacturing areas or in any other area where the product might be adversely affected should be forbidden.
- 2.26 Direct contact should be avoided between the operator's hands and the exposed product as well as with any part of the equipment that comes into contact with the products.
- 2.27 Personnel should be instructed to use the hand-washing facilities.
- 2.28 Any specific requirements for the manufacture of special groups of products, for example, sterile preparations, are covered in Annex 1



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## Chapter 3. Premises and Equipment

- 📁 Principles
- 📁 Premises
- 📁 Production and Packaging Area
- 📁 Storage Areas
- 📁 Quality Control Areas
- 📁 Ancillary Areas
- 📁 Equipment

### 3. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT

#### Principles

Premises and equipment must be located, designed, constructed, adapted and maintained to suit the operations to be carried out. Their layout and design must aim to minimize the risk of errors and permit effective cleaning and maintenance in order to avoid cross-contamination, build up of dust or dirt and, in general, any adverse effect on the quality of products.

The air control and cleaning schedule are the main variables in the control of the work environment. This is a common source of confusion and detailed guidance is provided below. **Annex 1** discusses in detail the GMP of sterile products; annex 1 also explains the overlap between the European Union GMP guidelines 1992 and the US Federal standard 209C.

For ease of application the UAE guidelines have classified the different environments into 4 different zones with minimum requirements , summarised as follows:

Zone	Description	Class EU	Class US Fed.
<b>Black</b>	No air filtration. There is protection against dust, animals and insects entering from outside	None	None
<b>Grey</b>	Visually clean	None	None
<b>Light Grey</b>	Filtered air e.g. Fine filter E19 for outside air or HEPA filter EU12 for recirculated air Monitoring for micro-organisms	D	100,000
<b>White</b>	Filtered air e.g. HEPA filter EU 12 Class depends upon the proximity to the manufacturing process (See Chapter 9)	Up to A	Up to 100

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### **Premises --General**

- 3.1 Premises should be situated in an environment which, when considered together with measures to protect the manufacture, presents minimal risk of causing contamination of materials or products.
- 3.2 Premises should be carefully maintained, ensuring that repair and maintenance operations do not present any hazard to the quality of products. They should be clean and where applicable, disinfected according to detailed written procedures
- 3.3 Lighting, temperature, humidity and ventilation should be appropriate and such that they do not adversely affect, directly or indirectly, either the medicinal products during their manufacture and storage, or the accurate functioning of equipment.
- 3.4 Premises should be designed and equipped so as to afford maximum protection against the entry of insects or other animals.
- 3.5 Steps should be taken in order to prevent the entry of unauthorized people. Personnel who do not work in them should not use production, storage and quality control areas as a right of way.

### **Production and Packaging Area**

The environmental control of these areas will depend upon the exact nature of the production and packaging performed.

#### **Normal production and primary packaging of oral preparations and other non-sterile products**

- 3.6 This should be performed in a Light grey zone. The required number of air changes will depend upon the heat load but will be a minimum of 6 changes per hour. The air conditioning (a/c) system should use a 100% outside air supply. Re-circulation of air should only be performed if there is a dedicated a/c system for each production line.

#### **Segregated production and primary packaging of special products.**

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3.7 In order to minimize the risk of a serious medical hazard due to cross-contamination, dedicated and self contained facilities must be available for the production of particular medicinal products, such as highly sensitizing materials (e.g. penicillins, cephalosporins or biological preparations e.g. from live microorganisms).

This should be performed in a Light grey zone. The exhausted air should be cleaned through a HEPA filter EU12. The a/c system should use 100% outside air. If re-circulated air is used it must be filtered through a HEPA filter.

The production of certain additional products, such as certain antibiotics, certain hormones, certain cytotoxics, certain highly active drugs and non-medicinal products should not be conducted in the same facilities. The manufacture of technical poisons such as pesticides and herbicides should not be allowed in premises used for the manufacture of medicinal products.

### **Secondary packaging.**

3.8 This should be performed in a Grey zone. The required number of air changes will depend upon the heat load but will be a minimum of 4 changes per hour. Re-circulated air is acceptable and the same a/c system can be used for several rooms.

### **Lay-out and work-flow**

3.9 Premises should preferably be laid out in a way as to allow the production to take place in areas connected in a logical order corresponding to the sequence of the operations and to the requisite cleanliness levels.

3.10 The adequacy of the working and in-process storage space should permit the orderly and logical positioning of equipment and materials so as to minimise the risk of confusion between different medicinal products or their components; so to avoid cross contamination and to minimise the risk of unintentional or wrong application of any of the manufacturing or control steps.

3.11 Where starting and primary packaging materials, intermediate or bulk products are exposed to the environment, interior surfaces (walls, floors and ceilings) should be smooth, free from cracks

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and open joints, and should not shed particulate matter and should permit easy and effective cleaning and, if necessary, disinfection.

- 3.12 Pipework, light fittings, ventilation points and other services should be designed and sited to avoid the creation of recesses that are difficult to clean. As far as possible, for maintenance purposes, they should be accessible from outside the manufacturing areas.
- 3.13 Drains should be of adequate size, and have "trapped gullies". Open channels should be avoided where possible, but if necessary, they should be shallow to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.
- 3.14 Weighing of starting materials usually should be carried out in a separate weighing room designed for that use.
- 3.15 In cases where dust is generated (e.g. during sampling, weighing mixing and the flossing operations, packaging of dry products), specific provisions should be taken to avoid cross-contamination and facilitate cleaning.
- 3.16 Premises for the packaging or medicinal product should be specifically designed and laid out so as to avoid mix-ups or cross-contamination.
- 3.17 Production areas should be well lit, particularly where visual error finding controls are carried out.
- 3.18 In-process controls may be carried out within the production area provided they do not carry any risk for the production.

### **Storage Areas**

- 3.19 These areas can be considered as Black zones. The main concerns are to ensure that the temperature, ventilation and a/c control systems are adequate for the local conditions and the requirements of the full range of materials stored. Protection against dust is particularly important in the UAE and the store must be protected from insects and animals entering from outside.

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- 3.20 Storage areas should be of sufficient capacity to allow orderly storage of the various categories of materials and products: starting and packaging materials, intermediate, bulk and finished products, products in quarantine, released, rejected, returned or recalled.
  - 3.21 Where special storage conditions are required (e.g. temperature, humidity), these should be provided, checked and monitored.
  - 3.22 Receiving and dispatch bays should protect materials and products from the weather. Reception areas should be designed and equipped to allow the containers of starting materials to be cleaned where necessary before storage.
  - 3.23 Where quarantine status is ensured by storage in separate areas, these areas must be clearly marked and their access restricted to authorized personnel. Any system replacing the physical quarantine should give equivalent security.
  - 3.24 There should normally be a separate sampling area for starting materials. If sampling is performed in the storage area, it should be conducted in such a way as to prevent contamination or cross-contamination.
  - 3.25 Segregated areas should be provided for the storage of rejected, recalled or returned materials or products.
  - 3.26 Highly active materials or products should be stored in safe and secure areas.
  - 3.27 Printed packaging materials are considered critical to the conformity of the medicinal product and special attention should be paid to the safe and secure storage at these materials.

#### **Quality Control Areas**

- 3.28 Normally, Quality Control laboratories should be separated from production areas. This is particularly important for the laboratories that control biologicals, microbiologicals and radioisotopes. These laboratories can be regarded as a Black zone. Where the laboratory is an in-process-control laboratory with personnel moving between production areas and the laboratory then it should be considered as a Grey zone.

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- 3.29 Control laboratories should be designated suitable operations to be carried out in them. Sufficient space should be given to avoid mix-ups and cross- contamination. There should be adequate, suitable storage space for samples and records.
  - 3.30 Separate rooms may be necessary to protect sensitive instruments from vibration, electrical interference, humidity, etc.
  - 3.31 Special requirements are needed in laboratories handling particular substances, such as biological or radioactive samples.

#### **Ancillary Areas**

- 3.32 These areas should be considered as Black zones.
- 3.33 Rest and refreshment rooms should be separate from other areas.
- 3.34 Facilities for changing clothes and for washing and toilet purposes should be easily accessible and appropriate for the number of users. Toilets should not directly communicate with production or storage areas.
- 3.35 Maintenance workshops should as far as possible be separated from production areas. Whenever parts and tools are stored in the production area, they should be kept in rooms or lockers reserved for that use.
- 3.36 Animal houses should be well isolated from other areas, with separate entrance (animal access) and air handling facilities.

#### **Equipment**

- 3.37 Manufacturing equipment should be designed, located and maintained to suit it's intended purpose.
- 3.38 Repair and maintenance operations should not present any hazard to the quality of the products.
- 3.39 Manufacturing equipment should be designed so that it can be easily and thoroughly cleaned. It should be cleaned according to detailed and written procedures and stored only in clean and dry conditions.
- 3.40 Washing and cleaning equipment should be chosen and used in order not to be a source of contamination.

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- 3.41 Equipment should be installed in such a way as to prevent any risk of error or of contamination.
  - 3.42 Production equipment should not present any hazard to the products. The parts of the production equipment that come into contact with the product must not be reactive, additive or absorptive to such an extent that it will affect the quality of the product and thus present any hazard.
  - 3.43 Balances and measuring equipment of an appropriate range and precision should be available for production and control operations.
  - 3.44 Measuring, weighing, recording and control equipment should be calibrated and checked at defined intervals by appropriate methods. Adequate records of such tests should be maintained.
  - 3.45 Fixed pipe work should be clearly labeled to indicate the contents and, where applicable, the direction of flow.
  - 3.46 Distilled, deionised and, where appropriate, other water pipes should be sanitized according to written procedures that detail the action limits for microbiological contamination and the measures to be taken.
  - 3.47 Defective equipment should, if possible, be removed from production and quality control areas or at least be clearly labeled as defective.



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## Chapter 4. Documentation

- 📁 Principles
- 📁 General requirements
- 📁 Documents required
- 📁 Specifications
- 📁 Formulae
- 📁 Instructions
- 📁 Records
- 📁 Procedures

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## 4. DOCUMENTATION

### Principles

Good documentation constitutes an essential part of the quality assurance system. Clearly written documentation prevents errors from spoken communication and permits tracing of batch history, specifications, manufacturing, formulas and instructions.

Procedures and records must be free from errors and available in writing. The legibility of documents is of paramount importance.

### General requirements

- 4.1 *Specifications* describe in detail the requirement with which the products or materials used or obtained during manufacture have to conform. They serve as a basis for quality evaluation.  
*Manufacturing formula, processing and packaging instructions* state all the starting materials used and lay down all processing and packaging operations.  
*Procedures* give directions for performing certain operations, eg. Cleaning, clothing, environmental control, sampling, testing, equipment operation.  
*Records* provide a history of each batch of product, including its distribution, and also of all other relevant circumstances pertinent to the quality of the final product. Documents should be designed, prepared, reviewed and distributed with care. They should comply with the relevant parts of the documents submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval;
- 4.2 Documents should be approved, signed and dated by appropriate and authorized persons;
- 4.3 Documents should have unambiguous contents; title, nature and purpose should be clearly stated. They should be laid out in an orderly fashion and be easy to check. Reproduced documents should be clear and legible. The reproduction of working documents from master

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documents must not allow any error to be introduced through the reproduction process;

- 4.4 Documents should be regularly reviewed and kept up-to-date. When a document has been revised, systems should be operated to prevent inadvertent use of superseded documents;
- 4.5 Documents must not be handwritten; although, where documents require the entry of data, those entries may be made in clear, legible, indelible handwriting. Sufficient space should be provided for each entry.
- 4.6 Any alteration made to the entry on a document should be signed and dated; the alteration should permit the reading of the original information. Where appropriate, the reason for the alteration should be recorded.
- 4.7 The record should be made or completed at the time each action is taken and in such a way that all significant activities concerning the manufacture of medicinal products is traceable. They should be retained for at least one year after the expiry date of the finished product.
- 4.8 Data may be recorded by electronic data processing systems, photographic or other reliable means, but detailed procedures relating to the system in use should be available and the accuracy of the records should be checked. If documentation is handled by electronically, only those authorised persons should be able to enter or modify data in the computer. There should be a record of changes and deletions. Access should be restricted by passwords or other means and the result of entry of critical data should be independently checked. Batch records that are stored electronically should be protected by back-up transfer on to magnetic tape, microfilm, paper or other means. It is particularly important that the data are readily available throughout the period of retention.

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## **Documents required**

The documents required can be classified into five groups which are discussed in this chapter:

Specifications, Formulae, Instructions, Records and Procedures

### **4.9 Specifications**

Specifications describe in detail the requirements with which the products or materials used or obtained during manufacture have to conform. They serve as a basis for quality evaluation.

There should be appropriately authorized and dated specifications for starting and packaging materials, and finished products; where appropriate, they should also be available for intermediate or bulk products.

### **Specifications for starting and packaging materials**

4.10 Specifications for starting and primary or printed packaging materials should include, if applicable

- i. a description of the materials, including:
  - the designated name and the internal code reference;
  - the reference, if any, to a pharmacopoeia monograph;
  - the approved suppliers and, if possible, the original producer of the products;
  - a specimen of printed materials;
- ii. directions for sampling and testing or reference to procedures;
- iii. qualitative and quantitative requirements with acceptance limits;
- iv. storage conditions and precautions;
- v. the maximum period of storage before re-examination.

### **Specifications for intermediate and bulk products**

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- 4.11 Specifications for intermediate and bulk products should be available if these are purchased or dispatched, or if data obtained from intermediate products are used for the evaluation of the finished product. The specifications should be similar to specifications for starting materials or for finished products, as appropriate.

**Specifications for finished products**

- 4.12 Specifications for finished products should include:
- I. the designated name of the product and the code reference where applicable;
  - II. the formula or a reference to the formula
  - III. a description of the pharmaceutical form and package details;
  - IV. directions for sampling and testing or a reference to procedures;
  - V. the qualitative and quantitative requirements, with the acceptance limits;
  - VI. the storage conditions and any special handling precautions, where applicable;
  - VII. the shelf-life.

**Manufacturing Formula, Processing and Packaging Instructions**

Manufacturing Formulae, Processing and Packaging Instructions state all the starting materials used and lay down all processing and packaging operations.

Formally authorized Manufacturing Formula and Processing Instructions should exist for each product and batch size to be manufactured. They are often combined in one document.

**4.13 The Manufacturing Formula should include:**

- I. the name of the product, with a product reference code relating to its specification;

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- II. a description of the pharmaceutical form, strength of the product and batch size;
  - III. a list of all starting materials to be used, with the amount of each, described using the designated name and a reference which is unique to that material;
  - IV. mention should be made of any substance that may disappear in the course of processing;
  - V. a statement of the expected final yield with the acceptable limits, and of relevant intermediate yields, where applicable.

**4.14 The processing instructions should include:**

- I. a statement of the processing location and the principal equipment to be used;
- II. the methods. or reference to the methods. to be used for preparing the critical equipment (e.g. cleaning, assembling, calibrating, sterilising);
- III. detailed step wise processing instructions (e.g. checks on materials, pre-treatments, sequence for adding materials, mixing times. temperatures);
- IV. the instructions for any in-process controls with their limits;
- V. where necessary, the requirements for bulk storage of the products including container, labeling and special storage conditions where applicable;
- VI. any special precautions to be observed

**4.15 The packaging instructions should include;**

- I. name of the product;
- II. description of its pharmaceutical form, and strength where applicable;
- III. the pack size expressed in terms of the number weight or volume of the product in the final container;

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- IV.** a complete list of all the packaging materials required for a standard batch size, including quantities, sizes and types, with the code or reference number relating to the specifications of each packaging material;
  - V.** where appropriate, an example or reproduction of the relevant printed packaging materials, and specimens indicating where to apply batch number references, and shelf life of the product;
  - VI.** special precautions to be observed, including a careful examination of the area and equipment in order to ascertain the line clearance before operations begin;
  - VII.** a description of the packaging operation, including any significant subsidiary operations, and equipment to be used;
  - VIII.** details of in-process controls with instructions for sampling and acceptance limits.

### **Records**

4.16 Records provide a history of each batch of product including its distribution. and also of all other relevant circumstances pertinent to the quality of the final product.

Batch Processing Record should be kept for each batch processed. It should be based on the relevant parts of the currently approved Manufacturing Formula and processing instructions. The method of preparation of such records should be designed to avoid transcription errors. The record should carry the number of the batch being manufactured.

Before any processing begins, there should be recorded checks that the equipment and work station are clear of previous products, documents or materials not required for the planned process, and that equipment is clean and suitable for use.

A Batch Packaging Record should be kept for each batch or part batch processed. It should be based on the relevant

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parts of the Packaging instructions and the method of preparations of such records should be designed to avoid transcription errors. The record should carry the batch number and the quantity of bulk product to be packed, as well as the batch number and the planned quantity of finished product that will be obtained.

### **Batch Processing Records**

4.17 During processing the following information should be recorded at the time each action is taken and, after completion, the record should be dated and signed in agreement by the person responsible for the processing operations:

- I.** the name of the product;
- II.** dates and times of commencement, of significant intermediate stages and of completion of production;
- III.** name of the person responsible for each stage of production;
- IV.** initials of the operator at different, significant steps of production and, where appropriate, of the person who checked each of these operations (e.g. weighing);
- V.** the batch number and/or analytical control number as well as the quantities of each starting material actually weighed (including the batch number and amount of any recovered or reprocessed material added);
- VI.** any relevant processing operation or event and major equipment used;
- VII.** a record of the in-process controls and the initials of the person(s) carrying them out and the results obtained;
- VIII.** the product yield obtained at different and pertinent stages of manufacture;



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- IX.** notes on special problems including details, with signed authorization for any deviation from the Manufacturing Formula and Processing Instructions.

### **Batch Packaging Records**

- 4.18 Before any packaging operation begins there should be recorded checks that the equipment and work station are clear of previous products, documents or materials not required for the planned packaging operations, and that equipment is clean and suitable for use. The following information should be entered at the time each action is taken and, after completion, the record should be dated and signed in agreement by the person(s) responsible for the packaging operations;
- I.** the name of the product;
  - II.** the date(s) and times of the packaging operations;
  - III.** the name of the responsible person carrying out the packaging operation;
  - IV.** the initials of the operators of the different significant steps;
  - V.** records of checks for- Identity and conformity with the packaging instructions including the results of in-process controls;
  - VI.** details of the packaging operations carried out, including references to equipment and the packaging lines used;
  - VII.** whenever possible, samples of printed packaging materials used including specimens of the batch coding, expiry dating and any additional overprinting;
  - VIII.** notes on any special problems or unusual events including details, with signed authorisation for any

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deviation from the Manufacturing formula and Processing instructions;

- IX.** the quantities and reference number of identification of all printed packaging materials and bulk product issued, used, destroyed or returned to stock and the quantities of obtained product, in order to provide for an adequate reconciliation.

### **Procedures**

4.19 Procedures give directions for performing certain operations e.g. cleaning, clothing, environmental control, sampling, testing, and equipment operation.

#### 4.20 Receipt of starting and Packaging Materials

There should be written procedures and records for the receipt of each delivery of each starting and primary and printed packaging material.

The records of the receipts should include: the name of the material on the delivery note and the containers;

- I.** the "in-house" name and/or code of material (if different from above);
- II.** date of receipt;
- III.** supplier's name and, if possible, manufacturer's name;
- IV.** manufacturer's batch or referenda number;
- V.** total quantity, and number of containers received;
- VI.** the batch number assigned after receipt;
- VII.** any relevant comment e.g. state of the containers

4.21 There should be written procedures for the internal labeling, quarantine and storage of starting materials, packaging materials and other materials, as appropriate.

### **Sampling**

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- 4.22 There should be written procedures for sampling, which include the person(s) authorized to take samples, the methods and equipment to be used, the amounts to be taken and any precautions to be observed to avoid contamination of the material or any deterioration in its quality (see Chapter- 6.5).

**Testing**

- 4.23 There should be written procedures for testing materials and products at different stages of manufacture, describing the methods and equipment to be used. The test performed should be recorded (see Chapter 6.6).

**Other procedures**

- 4.24 Written release and rejection procedures should be available for materials and products, and in particular for the release for sale of the finished product by the Senior Technical Manager(s) in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.
- 4.25 Records should be maintained of the distribution of each batch of a product in order to facilitate the recall of the batch if necessary (see Chapter 7).
- 4.26 There should be written procedures and the associated records of actions taken or conclusions reached, where appropriate for:
- validation equipment assembly and calibration;
  - maintenance, cleaning and sanitisation;
  - personnel matters including training, clothing, hygiene;
  - environmental monitoring;
  - pest control;
  - complaints;










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- recalls;
  - returns

.Clear operating procedures should be available for major items of manufacturing and test equipment.

- 4.27 Logbooks should be kept for major or critical equipment recording, as appropriate, any validations, calibrations, maintenance, cleaning or repair operations, including the dates and identity of people who carried these operations out.
- 4.28 Logbooks should also record in chronological order the use of major or critical equipment and the areas where the products have been processed.

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## 5. Production

-  Principles
-  General
-  Prevention of Contamination
-  Validation
-  Starting Materials
-  Processing operations: intermediate and bulk products
-  Packaging materials including labels
-  Finished product
-  Rejected, recovered and returned materials

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## **5. PRODUCTION**

### **Principles**

Production operations must follow clearly defined procedures; they must comply with the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice in order to obtain products of the requisite quality and be in accordance with the relevant manufacturing and marketing authorisations.

#### General

- 5.1 Production should be performed and supervised by competent people
- 5.2 All incoming materials should be checked to ensure that the consignment corresponds to the order.
- 5.3 Damage to containers and any other problem that might adversely affect the quality of a material should be investigated, recorded and reported to the Quality Control department.
- 5.4 Incoming materials and finished products should be physically or administratively quarantined immediately after receipt or processing, until they have been released for use or distribution
- 5.5 Intermediate and bulk products purchased as such should be handled on receipt as though they were starting materials.
- 5.6 All materials should be stored under the appropriate conditions established by the manufacturer and in an orderly fashion to permit batch segregation and stock rotation

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- 5.7 Checks on yields and reconciliation of quantities should be carried out as necessary to ensure that there are no discrepancies outside acceptable limits.
  - 5.8 Operations on different products should not be carried out simultaneously or consecutively in the same room unless there is no risk of mix-up or cross-contamination.
  - 5.9 At every stage of processing, products and materials should be protected from microbial and other contamination.
  - 5.10 When working with dry materials and products, special precautions should be taken to prevent the generation and dissemination of dust. This applies particularly to the handling of highly active or sensitizing materials.
  - 5.11 At all times during processing, all materials, bulk containers, major items of equipment and where appropriate, rooms, should be labelled or otherwise identified with an indication of the product or material being processed, its strength (where applicable) and batch number. Where applicable, this indication should also mention the stage of production.
  - 5.12 Labels applied to containers, equipment or premises should be clear, unambiguous and in the company's agreed format. It is often helpful, in addition to the wording on the labels to use colours to indicate status (for example, quarantined, accepted, rejected, clean...)
  - 5.13 Checks should be carried out to ensure that pipelines and other pieces of equipment used for the transportation of products from one area to another are connected in a correct manner.

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5.14 Any deviation from instructions or procedures should be avoided as far as possible. If a deviation occurs, a competent person, with the involvement of the Quality Control Department should approve it in writing.

5.15 Access to production premises should be restricted to authorized personnel.

5.16 Normally, the production of non-medicinal products should be avoided in areas and with the equipment destined for the production of medicinal products.

Prevention of Contamination during production and packaging

5.17 At all stages of processing, products and materials must be protected from contamination by microbes and other materials. This risk of accidental cross-contamination arises from the uncontrolled release of dust, gases, vapours, sprays or organisms from materials and products in process, from residues on equipment, and from operators' clothing.

5.18 Operations on different products should not be carried out simultaneously or consecutively in the same room unless there is no risk of mix-up or cross-contamination. The significance of this risk varies with the type of contaminant and of product being contaminated. Amongst the most hazardous contaminants are highly sensitizing materials, biological preparations containing living organisms, certain hormones, cytotoxics, and other highly active materials

5.19 At all times during processing, all materials, bulk containers, major items of equipment and where appropriate rooms used should be labeled or otherwise identified with an indication of the product or material being processed, its strength (where applicable) and batch number. Where applicable,



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this indication should also mention the stage of production.

- 5.20 Cross-contamination should be avoided by appropriate technical or organizational measures, for example:
- i) production in segregated areas (required for products such as penicillins, live vaccines, live bacterial preparations and some other biologicals), or by campaign (separation in time) followed by appropriate cleaning;
  - ii) providing appropriate air-locks and air extraction;
  - iii) minimizing the risk of contamination caused by recirculation or re-entry of untreated or insufficiently treated air;
  - iv) keeping protective clothing inside areas where products with special risk of cross-contamination are processed;
  - v) using cleaning and decontamination procedures of known effectiveness, as ineffective cleaning of equipment is a common source of cross-contamination;
  - vi) using "closed systems" of production;
  - vii) testing for residues and use of cleaning status labels on equipment;
  - viii) Measures to prevent cross-contamination and their effectiveness should be checked periodically according to set procedures.

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## **Validation**

- 5.21 Validation studies should reinforce Good Manufacturing Practice and be conducted in accordance with defined procedures. Results and conclusions should be recorded.
- 5.22 When any new manufacturing formula or method of preparation is adopted, steps should be taken to demonstrate its suitability for routine processing. The defined process, using the materials and equipment specified, should be shown to yield a product consistently of the required quality.
- 5.23 Significant amendments to the manufacturing process, including any change in equipment or materials, which may affect product quality and/or the reproducibility of the process should be validated.
- 5.24 Processes and procedures should undergo periodic critical re-validation to ensure that they remain capable of achieving the intended results.

## **Starting materials**

### **Purchase and receiving**

- 5.25 The purchase of starting materials is an important operation that should involve staff who have a particular and thorough knowledge of the suppliers.
- 5.26 Starting materials should only be purchased from approved suppliers named in the relevant specification and, where possible, directly from the producer. It is recommended that the specifications established by the manufacturer for the starting materials be discussed with the suppliers. It is of benefit that all aspects of the production and control of the starting material in question, including handling, labeling and packaging requirements, as

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well as complaints and rejection procedures are discussed with the manufacturer and the supplier.

- 5.27 For each delivery, the containers should be checked for integrity of package and seal and for correspondence between the order, delivery note and the supplier's labels. Damage to containers and any other problem that might adversely affect the quality of a material should be investigated, recorded and reported to the Quality Control Department.
- 5.28 If one material delivery is made up of different batches, each batch must be considered as separate for sampling, testing and release.
- 5.29 Starting materials in the storage area should be appropriately labeled. Labels should bear at least the following information:
- the designated name of the product;
  - (and the internal code reference where applicable;)
  - a batch number given at receipt;
  - where appropriate, the status of the contents (e.g. in quarantine, on test, released, rejected);
  - where appropriate, an expiry date or a date beyond which re-testing is necessary.

When fully computerized storage systems are used, all the above information need not necessarily be in a legible form on the label.

- 5.30 There should be appropriate procedures or measures to assure the identity of the contents of each container of starting material. Bulk containers from which samples have been drawn should be identified (see Chapter 6.5). Incoming materials should be physically or administratively quarantined immediately after receipt or

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processing, until they have been released for use or distribution.

- 5.31 Only starting materials which have been released by the Quality Control Department and which are within their shelf life should be used.
- 5.32 Only designated persons, following a written procedure, should weigh or measure starting materials. This procedure should ensure that the correct materials are accurately weighed or measured into clean and properly labeled containers.
- 5.33 Each dispensed material and its weight or volume should be independently checked and the check recorded.
- 5.34 Materials dispensed for each batch should be kept together and conspicuously labeled as such.

### **Processing operations: Intermediate and bulk products**

#### **Preparation**

- 5.35 Before any processing operation is started, steps should be taken to ensure that the work area and equipment are clean and free from any starting materials, products, product residues or documents not required for the current operation.
- 5.36 Intermediate and bulk products purchased as such should be kept under appropriate conditions and handled on receipt as though they were starting materials.
- 5.37 Critical processes should be validated (see "VALIDATION" in this Chapter).
- 5.38 Any necessary in-process controls and environmental controls should be carried out and recorded. Checks should be carried out to ensure that pipelines and other pieces of equipment used for the

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transportation of products for one area to another are connected in a correct manner.

- 5.39 Any significant deviation from the expected yield should be recorded and investigated.

**Packaging materials including labeling**

- 5.40 The purchase, handling and control of primary and printed packaging materials shall be accorded attention similar to that given to starting materials.

- 5.41 Particular attention should be paid to printed materials. They should be stored in adequately secure conditions such as to exclude unauthorized access. Cut labels and other loose printed materials should be stored and transported in separate closed containers so as to avoid mix-ups. Packaging materials should be issued for use only by authorized personnel following an approved and documented procedure.

- 5.42 Each delivery or batch of printed or primary packaging material should be given a specific reference number or identification mark.

- 5.43 Outdated or obsolete primary packaging material or printed packaging material should be destroyed and this disposal recorded.

**Packaging operations**

- 5.44 When setting up a program for the packaging operations, particular attention should be given to minimizing the risk of cross-contamination, mix-ups or substitutions. Different products should not be packaged in close proximity unless there is physical segregation.

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- 5.45 Before packaging operations are begun, steps should be taken to ensure that the work area, packaging lines, printing machines and other equipment are clean and free from any products, materials or documents previously used, if these are not required for the current operation. The line-clearance should be performed according to an appropriate check-list.
- 5.46 The name and batch number of the product being handled should be displayed at each packaging station or line.
- 5.47 All products and packaging materials to be used should be checked on delivery to the packaging department for quantity, identity and conformity with the packaging Instructions.
- 5.48 Containers for filling should be clean before filling. Attention should be given to avoiding and removing any contaminants such as glass fragments and metal particles.
- 5.49 Normally, filling and sealing should be followed as quickly as possible by labeling. If it is not the case, appropriate procedures should be applied to ensure that no mix-ups or mislabeling could occur.
- 5.50 The correct performance of any printing operation (for example code numbers, expiry dates) to be done separately or in the course of the packaging should be checked and recorded. Attention should be paid to printing by hand which should be re-checked at regular interval.
- 5.51 Special care should be taken when using cut labels and when over-printing is carried out off-line. Roll-feed labels are normally preferable to cut-labels, in helping to avoid mix-ups.

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- 5.52 Checks should be made to ensure that any electronic code readers, label counters or similar devices are operating correctly.
- 5.53 Printed and embossed information on packaging materials should be distinct and resistant to fading or erasing.
- 5.54 On-line control of the product during packaging should include at least checking the following:
- general appearance of the packages;
  - whether the packages are complete;
  - whether the correct products and packaging materials are used;
  - whether any over-printing is correct;
  - correct functioning of line monitors.

**Samples taken away from the packaging line should not be returned.**

- 5.55 Following an unusual event, authorized personnel should only reintroduce products into the process after special inspection, investigation and approval. Detailed record should be kept of this operation.
- 5.56 Any significant or unusual discrepancy observed during reconciliation of the amount of bulk product and printed packaging materials and the number of units produced should be investigated and satisfactorily accounted for before release.
- 5.57 Upon completion of a packaging operation, any unused batch-coded packaging materials should be destroyed and the destruction recorded. A documented procedure should be followed if uncoded printed materials are returned to stock.

Finished products

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- 5.58 Finished products should be in quarantine until their final release under conditions established by the manufacturer.
- 5.59 The evaluation of finished products and documentation which is necessary before release of product for sale are described in Chapter 6 (Quality Control).
- 5.60 After release, finished products should be stored as usable stock under conditions established by the manufacturer.

**Rejected, recovered and returned materials**







- 5.61 Rejected materials and products should be clearly marked as such and stored separately in restricted areas. They should either be returned to the suppliers or, where appropriate, reprocessed or destroyed. Whatever action is taken should be approved and recorded by authorized personnel.
- 5.62 The reprocessing of rejected products should be exceptional. It is only permitted if the quality of the final product is not affected, if the specifications are met and if it is done in accordance with a defined and authorized procedure after evaluation of the risks involved. Record should be kept of the reprocessing.
- 5.63 The recovery of all or part earlier batches, which conform to the required quality by incorporation into a batch of the same product at a defined stage of manufacture, should be authorized beforehand. This recovery should be carried out in accordance with a defined procedure after evaluation of the risks involved, including any possible effect on shelf life. The recovery should be recorded.



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- 5.64 The Quality Control Department should consider the need for additional testing of any finished product which has been reprocessed, or into which a recovered product has been incorporated.
- 5.65 Products returned from the market and which have left the control of the manufacturer should be destroyed unless without doubt their quality is satisfactory. They may be considered for re-sale, relabelling or recovery in a subsequent batch only after the Quality Control Department in accordance with a written procedure has critically assessed them. The nature of the product, any special storage conditions it requires, its condition and history, and the time elapsed since it was issued should all be taken into account in this assessment. Where any doubt arises over the quality of the product, it should not be considered suitable for re-issued or re-use, although basic chemical re-processing to recover active ingredient may be possible. Any action taken should be appropriately recorded.

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## 6. Quality Control

-  Principle
-  General
-  Good Quality Control  
Laboratory Practice
-  Documentation
-  Sampling
-  Testing

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## **6. QUALITY CONTROL**

### **Principles**

Quality Control is concerned with sampling, specifications and testing as well as organization, documentation and release procedures which ensure that the necessary and relevant tests are carried out, and that materials are not released for use, nor products released for sale or supply, until their quality has been judged satisfactory. Quality Control is not confined to laboratory operations, but must be involved in all decisions which may concern the quality of the product. The independence of Quality Control from Production is considered fundamental to the satisfactory operation of Quality Control.

### **General**

- 6.1 Each holder of a manufacturing authorization should have a Quality Control Department. This department should be independent from other departments, and under the authority of a person with appropriate qualifications and experience, who has one or several control laboratories at his disposal. Adequate resources must be available to ensure that all the Quality Control arrangements are effectively and reliably carried out.
- 6.2 The principal duties of the head of Quality Control are summarized in Chapter 2. The Quality Control Department as a whole will also have other duties. These will include; to establish, validate and implement all quality control procedures, keep the reference samples of materials and products, ensure the correct labeling of containers of materials and products, ensure the monitoring of the stability of the products, participate in the investigation of complaints related to the quality of the product,

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etc. All these operations should be carried out in accordance with written procedures and, where necessary, recorded.

6.3 Finished product assessment should embrace all relevant factors, including production conditions, results of in-process testing, a review of manufacturing (including packaging) documentation, compliance with Finished Product Specification and examination of the final finished pack .

6.4 Quality Control personnel should have access to production areas for sampling and investigation as appropriate.

#### **Good Quality Control Laboratory Practice**

6.5 Control laboratory premises and equipment should meet the general and specific requirements for Quality Control areas given in Chapter 3.

6.6 The personnel, premises, and equipment in the laboratories should be appropriate to that imposed by the nature and the scale of the manufacturing operations. The use of outside laboratories is acceptable but this should be stated in the Quality Control records.

#### **Documentation**

6.7 Laboratory documentation should follow the principles given in Chapter 4. An important part of this documentation deals with Quality Control and the following details should be readily available to the Quality Control Department.

- i) specifications;
- ii) sampling procedures;

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- iii) testing procedure and records (including analytical worksheets and/or laboratory notebooks);
  - iv) analytical reports and/or certificates;
  - v) data from environmental monitoring, where required;
  - vi) validation records of test methods, where applicable;
  - vii) procedures for and records of the calibration of instruments and maintenance of equipment.

6.8 Any Quality Control documentation relating to a batch record should be retained as directed by the MOH.

6.9 For some kinds of data (e.g. analytical tests results, yields, environmental controls,..) It is recommended that records in a manner permitting trend evaluation be kept.

6.10 In addition to the information that is part of the batch record, other original data such as laboratory notebooks an/or records should be retained and readily available.

### **Sampling**

6.11 The sample taking should be done in accordance with approved written procedures that describes:

- i) the method of sampling;
- ii) the equipment to be used;
- iii) the amount of the sample to be taken;
- iv) instructions for any required sub-division of the sample
- v) the type and condition of the sample container to be used;

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- vi) the identification of containers sampled;
  - vii) any special precautions to be observed, especially with regard to the sampling of sterile or noxious materials;
  - viii) the storage conditions;
  - ix) instructions for the cleaning and storage of sampling equipment.

6.12 Reference samples should be representative of the batch of materials or products from which they are taken. Other samples may also be taken to monitor the most stressed part of a process (e.g. beginning or end of a process).

6.13 Sample containers should bear a label indicating the contents, with the batch number, the date of sampling and the containers from which samples have been drawn.

6.14 Reference samples from each batch of finished products should be retained till one year after the expiry date or as stated by the MOH. Finished products should usually be kept in their final packaging and stored under the recommended conditions. Samples of starting materials (other than solvents, gases and water) should be retained till one year after the product expiry or as stated by the MOH if their stability allows. This period may be shortened if their stability, as mentioned in the relevant specification, is shorter. Reference samples of materials and products should be of a size sufficient to permit at least a full re-examination.

## **Testing**

6.15 Analytical methods should be validated. All testing operations described in the registration

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file submitted to the MOH should be carried out according to the approved method.

6.16 The results obtained should be recorded and checked to make sure that they are consistent with each other. Any calculations should be critically examined.

6.17 The tests performed should be recorded and the records should include at least the following data:

- A.** name of the material or product and , where applicable, dosage form;
- B.** test results, including observations and calculations, and reference to any certificates of analysis
- C.** batch number and, where appropriate, the manufacturer and/or supplier;
- D.** dates of testing;
- E.** references to the relevant specifications and testing procedures;
- F.** initials of the persons who performed the testing;
- G.** initials of the persons who verified the testing and the calculations, where appropriate;
- H.** initials of the persons who verified the testing and the calculations, where appropriate;
- I.** a clear statement of release or rejection (or other status decision) and the dated signature of the designated responsible person
- J.** a clear statement of release or rejection (or

6.18 All the in-process controls, including those made in the production area by production personnel, should be performed according to methods

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approved by Quality Control and the results recorded.

6.19 Special attention should be given to the quality of laboratory reagents, volumetric glassware and solutions, reference standards and culture media. They should be prepared in accordance with written procedures.

6.20 Laboratory reagents intended for prolonged use should be marked with the preparation date and the signature of the person who prepared them. The expiry date of unstable reagents and culture media should be indicated on the label, together with specific storage conditions. In addition, for volumetric solutions, the last date of standardization and the last current factor should be indicated.

6.21 Where necessary, the date of receipt of any substance used for testing operations e.g. reagents and reference standards) should be indicated on the container. Instructions for use and storage should be followed. In certain cases it may be necessary to carry out an identification test and/or other testing of reagent materials upon receipt or before use.

Animals used for testing components, materials or products, should, where appropriate, be quarantined before use. They should be maintained and controlled in a manner that assures their suitability for the intended use. They should be identified, and adequate records should be maintained, showing the history of their use.



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## **7. Complaints and Product recall**

 Principle

 Complaints

 Recalls

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## **7. COMPLAINTS AND PRODUCT RECALL**

### **Principle**

All complaints and other information concerning potentially defective products must be reviewed carefully according to written procedures. In order to provide for all contingencies, a system should be designed to recall, if necessary, promptly and effectively, products known or suspected to be defective from the market.

### **Complaints**

- 7.1 A person should be designated responsible for handling the complaints and deciding the measures to be taken together with sufficient supporting staff to assist him. If this person is not the Senior Technical Manager, they should be made aware of any complaint, investigation or recall.
- 7.2 There should be written procedures describing the action to be taken, including the need to consider a recall, in the case of a complaint concerning a possible product defect.
- 7.3 Any complaint concerning a product defect should be recorded with all the original details and thoroughly investigated. The person responsible for Quality Control should normally be involved in the study of such problems.
- 7.4 If a product defect is discovered or suspected in a batch, consideration should be given to checking other batches in order to determine whether they are also affected. In particular, other batches, which may contain reworks of the defective batch, should be investigated.
- 7.5 All the decisions and measures taken as a result of a complaint should be recorded and referenced to the corresponding batch records.
- 7.6 Complaint records should be reviewed regularly for any indication of specific or recurring problems requiring attention and possibly the recall of marketed products.

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- 7.7 The Ministry of Health must be informed if a manufacturer is considering action following possibly faulty manufacture, product deterioration, or any other serious quality problems with a product.

### **Recalls**

- 7.8 A person should be designated as responsible for execution and coordination of recalls and should be supported by sufficient staff to handle all the aspects of the recalls with the appropriate degree of urgency. This responsible person should normally be independent of the sales and marketing organization. If this person is not the Senior Technical Manager, they should be made aware of any recall operation.
- 7.9 There should be established written procedures, regularly checked and updated when necessary, in order to organize any recall activity.
- 7.10 Recall operations should be capable of being initiated promptly and at any time.
- 7.11 The UAE Ministry of Health and all competent authorities of all countries to which products may have been distributed should be informed promptly if products are to be recalled because they are, or are suspected of being defective.
- 7.12 The distribution records should be readily available to the persons(s) responsible for recalls, and should contain sufficient information on wholesalers and directly supplied customers (with addresses, phone and/or fax numbers inside and outside working hours, batches and amounts delivered), including those for exported products and medical samples.
- 7.13 Recalled products should be identified and stored separately in a secure area while awaiting a decision on their fate.
- 7.14 The progress of the recall process should be recorded and a final report issued, including a reconciliation between the delivered and recovered quantities of the products.

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7.15 The effectiveness of the arrangements for recalls should be evaluated from time to time.

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## 8. Self inspection

 Principle

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## **8. SELF INSPECTION**

### **Principle**

Self-inspections should be conducted in order to monitor the implementation and compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice principles and to propose necessary corrective measures.

- 8.1 Personnel matters, premises, equipment, documentation, production, quality control, distribution of the medicinal products, arrangements for dealing with complaints and recalls, and self inspection, should be examined at intervals following a pre-arranged programme in order to verify their conformity with the principles of Quality Assurance.
- 8.2 Self-inspections should be conducted in an independent and detailed way by designated competent persons(s) from the company. Independent audits by external experts may also be useful.
- 8.3 All self-inspections should be recorded. Reports should contain all the observations made during the inspections and, where applicable, proposals for corrective measures. Statements on the actions subsequently taken should also be recorded.

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## Annex 1 Manufacture of sterile medicinal products

This annex has been completely redrafted and contains the latest European Guidelines on the GMP for Sterile Medicinal products

*It replaces Section 9 of the 1997 UAE GMP Guidelines*

In addition to General guidance on environmental control and standards, it contains guidance on;

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✎ Isolator technology            | ✎ Sterilisation by heat             |
| ✎ Blow/fill/seal technology      | ✎ Sterilisation by moist heat       |
| ✎ Terminally sterilised products | ✎ Sterilisation by dry heat         |
| ✎ Aseptic preparation            | ✎ Sterilisation by radiation        |
| ✎ Personnel                      | ✎ Sterilisation with ethylene oxide |
| ✎ Premises                       | ✎ Sterilisation by filtration       |
| ✎ Equipment                      | ✎ Finishing of sterile products     |
| ✎ Sanitation                     | ✎ Quality Control                   |
| ✎ Processing                     |                                     |

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## **Annex 1 Manufacture of sterile medicinal products**

### **Principle**

The manufacture of sterile preparations has special requirements in order to minimize risks of microbiological contamination, and of particulate and pyrogen contamination. Much depends on the skill, training and attitudes of the personnel involved. Quality Assurance is particularly important, and this manufacture must strictly follow carefully established and validated methods of preparation and procedure. Sole reliance for sterility or other quality aspects must not be placed on any terminal process or finished product test.

Note:

The present guidance does not lay down detailed methods for determining the microbiological and particulate cleanliness of air, surfaces etc. Reference is made to other compendia such as the CEN/ISO Standards.

### **General**

- 1.1 The manufacture of sterile products should be carried out in clean areas entry to which should be through airlocks for personnel and/or for goods. Clean areas should be maintained to an appropriate standard of cleanliness and supplied with air that has passed through filters of an appropriate efficiency.
- 1.2 The various operations of component preparation, product preparation, filling and sterilization should be carried out in separate areas within the clean area.
- 1.3 Clean areas for the manufacture of sterile products are classified according to the required characteristics of the environment. Each manufacturing operation requires an appropriate environmental cleanliness level in the operational state in order to minimise the risks of particulate or microbial contamination of the product or materials being handled. In order to meet "in operation" conditions these areas should be designed to reach certain specified air-cleanliness levels in the "at rest" occupancy state. The "at-rest" state is the condition



where the installation is installed and operating, complete with production equipment but with no operating personnel present. The "in operation" state is the condition where the installation is functioning in the defined operating mode with the specified number of personnel working.

For the manufacture of sterile medicinal products there are normally 4 grades of clean areas.

Grade A : The local zone for high risk operations, e.g. filling zone, stopper bowls, open ampoules and vials, making aseptic connections. Normally such conditions are provided by a laminar air flow work station. Laminar air flow systems should provide a homogeneous air speed of 0.45 m/s  $\pm$  20 % (guidance value) at the working position.

Grade B : For aseptic preparation and filling, this is the background environment for grade A zone.

Grade C and D: Clean areas for carrying out less critical stages in the manufacture of sterile products.

The airborne particulate classification for these grades is given in the following table.

		<b>Maximum permitted number of particles /m<sup>3</sup>, equal to or above:</b>			
		<b>0.5 <math>\mu</math>m</b>	<b>5 <math>\mu</math>m</b>	<b>0.5 <math>\mu</math>m</b>	<b>5 <math>\mu</math>m</b>
<b>1 Grade</b>		<b>at rest (b)</b>		<b>in operation</b>	
100, M 3.5, ISO 5	<b>A</b>	3 500	0	3 500	0
	<b>B (a)</b>	3 500	0	350 000	2 000
10 000, M 5.5, ISO 7	<b>C (a)</b>	350 000	2 000	500 000	20 000
100 000, M 6.5, ISO 8	<b>D (a)</b>	3 500 000	20 000	(c)	(c)

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## Notes

(a) In order to reach the B, C and D air grades, the number of air changes should be related to the size of the room and the equipment and personnel present in the room. The air system should be provided with appropriate filters such as HEPA for grades A, B and C.

(b) The guidance given for the maximum permitted number of particles in the "at rest" condition corresponds approximately to the US Federal Standard 209 E and the ISO classifications as follows: grades A and B correspond with class 100, M 3.5, ISO 5; grade C with class 10.000, M 5.5, ISO 7 and grade D with class 100.000, M 6.5, ISO 8.

(c) The requirement and limit for this area will depend on the nature of the operations carried out.

Examples of operations to be carried out in the various grades are given in the table below.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Examples of operations for terminally sterilized products (see 1. 11)</b>	<b>Examples of operations for aseptic preparations (see 1.12)</b>
A	Filling of products, when unusually at risk	Aseptic preparation and filling
C	Preparation of solutions, when unusually at risk. Filling of products	Preparation of solutions to be filtered
D	Preparation of solutions and components for subsequent filling	Handling of components after washing

The particulate conditions given in the table for the "at rest" state should be achieved in the unmanned state after a short "clean up" period of 15-20 minutes (guidance value), after completion of operations. The particulate conditions for grade A in operation given in the table should be maintained in the zone immediately surrounding the product whenever

the product or open container is exposed to the environment. It is accepted that it may not always be possible to demonstrate conformity with particulate standards at the point of fill when filling is in progress, due to the generation of particles or droplets from the product itself.

- 1.4 The areas should be monitored during operation, in order to control the particulate cleanliness of the various grades.
- 1.5 Where aseptic operations are performed monitoring should be frequent using methods such as settle plates, volumetric air and surface sampling (e.g. swabs and contact plates). Sampling methods used in operation should not interfere with zone protection. Results from monitoring should be considered when reviewing batch documentation for finished product release. Surfaces and personnel should be monitored after critical operations. Additional microbiological monitoring is also required outside production operations, e.g. after validation of systems, cleaning and sanitisation.

**Recommended limits for microbiological monitoring of clean areas during operation**

<b>Recommended limits for microbial contamination (a)</b>					
<b>Grade</b>		<b>Air sample</b> cfu/m <sup>3</sup>	<u>Settle plates</u> <b>(90mm)</b> <b>cfu / 4 hr</b> <b>(b)</b>	<b>Contact plates</b> (55mm) cfu/plate	<b>Glove print</b> (5 fingers) cfu / glove
100, M 3.5, ISO 5	<b>A</b>	<1	<1	<1	<1
	<b>B</b>	10	5	5	5
10 000, M 5.5, ISO 7	<b>C</b>	100	50	25	0
100 000, M 6.5, ISO 8	<b>D</b>	200	100	50	0

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## Notes

- (a) These are average values.
- (b) Individual settle plates may be exposed for less than 4 hours.

- 1.6 Appropriate alert and action limits should be set for the results of particulate and microbiological monitoring. If these limits are exceeded operating procedures should prescribe corrective action.

### **Isolator technology**

- 1.7 The utilisation of isolator technology to minimise human interventions in processing areas may result in a significant decrease in the risk of microbiological contamination of aseptically manufactured products from the environment. There are many possible designs of isolators and transfer devices. The isolator and the background environment should be designed so that the required air quality for the respective zones can be realised. Isolators are constructed of various materials more or less prone to puncture and leakage. Transfer devices may vary from a single door to double door designs to fully sealed systems incorporating sterilisation mechanisms. The transfer of materials into and out of the unit is one of the greatest potential sources of contamination. In general the area inside the isolator is the local zone for high risk manipulations, although it is recognised that laminar air flow may not exist in the working zone of all such devices. The air classification required for the background environment depends on the design of the isolator and its application. It should be controlled and for aseptic processing it should be at least grade D.
- 1.8 Isolators should be introduced only after appropriate validation. Validation should take into account all critical factors of isolator technology, for example the quality of the air inside and outside (background) the isolator, sanitisation of the isolator, the transfer process and isolator integrity.

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- 1.9 Monitoring should be carried out routinely and should include frequent leak testing of the isolator and glove/sleeve system

**Blow/fill/seal technology**

- 1.10 Blow/fill/seal units are purpose built machines in which, in one continuous operation, containers are formed from a thermoplastic granulate, filled and then sealed, all by the one automatic machine. Blow/fill/seal equipment used for aseptic production which is fitted with an effective grade A air shower may be installed in at least a grade C environment, provided that grade A/B clothing is used. The environment should comply with the viable and non-viable limits at rest and the viable limit only when in operation. Blow/fill/seal equipment used for the production of products that are terminally sterilised should be installed in at least a grade D environment.

Because of this special technology particular attention should be paid to, at least the following: equipment design and qualification, validation and reproducibility of cleaning-in-place and sterilisation-in-place, background clean room environment in which the equipment is located, operator training and clothing, and interventions in the critical zone of the equipment including any aseptic assembly prior to the commencement of filling.

**Terminally sterilised products**

- 1.11 Preparation of components and most products should be done in at least a grade D environment in order to give low risk of microbial and particulate contamination, suitable for filtration and sterilisation. Where the product is at a high or unusual risk of microbial contamination, (for example, because the product actively supports microbial growth or must be held for a long period before sterilisation or is necessarily processed not mainly in closed vessels), then preparation should be carried out in a grade C environment. Filling of products for terminal sterilisation should be carried out in at least a grade C environment.

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Where the product is at unusual risk of contamination from the environment, for example because the filling operation is slow or the containers are wide-necked or are necessarily exposed for more than a few seconds before sealing, the filling should be done in a grade A zone with at least a grade C background. Preparation and filling of ointments, creams, suspensions and emulsions should generally be carried out in a grade C environment before terminal sterilisation.

### **Aseptic preparation**

- 1.12 Components after washing should be handled in at least a grade D environment. Handling of sterile starting materials and components, unless subjected to sterilisation or filtration through a micro-organism-retaining filter later in the process, should be done in a grade A environment with grade B background.

Preparation of solutions that are to be sterile filtered during the process should be done in a grade C environment; if not filtered; the preparation of materials and products should be done in a grade A environment with a grade B background. Handling and filling of aseptically prepared products should be done in a grade A environment with a grade B background.

Prior to the completion of stoppering, transfer of partially closed containers, as used in freeze drying should be done either in a grade A environment with grade B background or in sealed transfer trays in a grade B environment. Preparation and filling of sterile ointments, creams, suspensions and emulsions should be done in a grade A environment, with a grade B background, when the product is exposed and is not subsequently filtered.

### **Personnel**

- 1.13 Only the minimum number of personnel required should be present in clean areas; this is particularly important during aseptic processing. Inspections and controls should be conducted outside the clean areas as far as possible.

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- 1.14 All personnel (including those concerned with cleaning and maintenance) employed in such areas should receive regular training in disciplines relevant to the correct manufacture of sterile products. This training should include reference to hygiene and to the basic elements of microbiology. When outside staff who have not received such training (e.g. building or maintenance contractors) need to be brought in, particular care should be taken over their instruction and supervision.
- 1.15 Staff who have been engaged in the processing of animal tissue materials or of cultures of micro-organisms other than those used in the current manufacturing process should not enter sterile-product areas unless rigorous and clearly defined entry procedures have been followed.
- 1.16 High standards of personal hygiene and cleanliness are essential. Personnel involved in the manufacture of sterile preparations should be instructed to report any condition which may cause the shedding of abnormal numbers or types of contaminants; periodic health checks for such conditions are desirable. Actions to be taken about personnel who could be introducing undue microbiological hazard should be decided by a designated competent person.
- 1.17 Changing and washing should follow a written procedure designed to minimise contamination of clean area clothing or carry-through of contaminants to the clean areas.
- 1.18 Wristwatches, make-up and jewellery should not be worn in clean areas.
- 1.19 The clothing and its quality should be appropriate for the process and the grade of the working area. It should be worn in such a way as to protect the product from contamination.
- The description of clothing required for each grade is given below:

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Grade D: Hair and, where relevant, beard should be covered. A general protective suit and appropriate shoes or overshoes should be worn. Appropriate measures should be taken to avoid any contamination coming from outside the clean area.

Grade C: Hair and where relevant beard and moustache should be covered. A single or two-piece trouser suit, gathered at the wrists and with high neck and appropriate shoes or overshoes should be worn. They should shed virtually no fibres or particulate matter.

Grade A/B: Headgear should totally enclose hair and, where relevant, beard and moustache; it should be tucked into the neck of the suit; a facemask should be worn to prevent the shedding of droplets. Appropriate sterilised, non-powdered rubber or plastic gloves and sterilised or disinfected footwear should be worn. Trouser-legs should be tucked inside the footwear and garment sleeves into the gloves. The protective clothing should shed virtually no fibres or particulate matter and retain particles shed by the body.

- 1.20 Outdoor clothing should not be brought into changing rooms leading to grade B and C rooms. For every worker in a grade A/B area, clean sterile (sterilised or adequately sanitised) protective garments should be provided at each work session or at least once a day if monitoring results justify this. Gloves should be regularly disinfected during operations. Masks and gloves should be changed at least at every working session.
- 1.21 Clean area clothing should be cleaned and handled in such a way that it does not gather additional contaminants that can later be shed. These operations should follow written procedures. Separate laundry facilities for such clothing are desirable. Inappropriate treatment of clothing will damage fibres and may increase the risk of shedding of particles.



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## Premises

- 1.22 In clean areas, all exposed surfaces should be smooth, impervious and unbroken in order to minimise the shedding or accumulation of particles or micro-organisms and to permit the repeated application of cleaning agents, and disinfectants where used.
- 1.23 To reduce accumulation of dust and to facilitate cleaning there should be no uncleanable recesses and a minimum of projecting ledges, shelves, cupboards and equipment. Doors should be designed to avoid those uncleanable recesses; sliding doors may be undesirable for this reason.
- 1.24 False ceilings should be sealed to prevent contamination from the space above them.
- 1.25 Pipes and ducts and other utilities should be installed so that they do not create recesses, unsealed openings and surfaces that are difficult to clean.
- 1.26 Sinks and drains should be prohibited in grade A/B areas used for aseptic manufacture. In other areas air breaks should be fitted between the machine or sink and the drains. Floor drains in lower grade clean rooms should be fitted with traps or water seals to prevent back-flow.
- 1.27 Changing rooms should be designed as airlocks and used to provide physical separation of the different stages of changing and so minimise microbial and particulate contamination of protective clothing. They should be flushed effectively with filtered air. The final stage of the changing room should, in the at-rest state, be the same grade as the area into which it leads. The use of separate changing rooms for entering and leaving clean areas is sometimes desirable. In general hand-washing facilities should be provided only in the first stage of the changing rooms.

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- 1.28 Both airlock doors should not be opened simultaneously. An interlocking system or a visual and/or audible warning system should be operated to prevent the opening of more than one door at a time.
- 1.29 A filtered air supply should maintain a positive pressure and an airflow relative to surrounding areas of a lower grade under all operational conditions and should flush the area effectively. Adjacent rooms of different grades should have a pressure differential of 10 - 15 pascals (guidance values). Particular attention should be paid to the protection of the zone of greatest risk, that is, the immediate environment to which a product and cleaned components that contact the product are exposed. The various recommendations regarding air supplies and pressure differentials may need to be modified where it becomes necessary to contain some materials, e.g. pathogenic, highly toxic, radioactive or live viral or bacterial materials or products. Decontamination of facilities and treatment of air leaving a clean area may be necessary for some operations.
- 1.30 It should be demonstrated that airflow patterns do not present a contamination risk, e.g. care should be taken to ensure that airflows do not distribute particles from a particle-generating person, operation or machine to a zone of higher product risk.
- 1.31 A warning system should be provided to indicate failure in the air supply. Indicators of pressure differences should be fitted between areas where these differences are important. These pressure differences should be recorded regularly or otherwise documented.

### **Equipment**

- 1.32 A conveyor belt should not pass through a partition between a grade A or B area and a processing area of lower air cleanliness, unless the belt itself is continually sterilised (e.g. in a sterilising tunnel).

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- 1.33 As far as practicable equipment, fittings and services should be designed and installed so that operations, maintenance and repairs can be carried out outside the clean area. If sterilisation is required, it should be carried out, wherever possible, after complete reassembly.
- 1.34 When equipment maintenance has been carried out within the clean area, the area should be cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilised where appropriate, before processing recommences if the required standards of cleanliness and/or asepsis have not been maintained during the work.
- 1.35 Water treatment plants and distribution systems should be designed, constructed and maintained so as to ensure a reliable source of water of an appropriate quality. They should not be operated beyond their designed capacity. Water for injections should be produced, stored and distributed in a manner, which prevents microbial growth, for example, by constant circulation at a temperature above 70°C.
- 1.36 All equipment such as sterilisers, air handling and filtration systems, air vent and gas filters, water treatment, generation, storage and distribution systems should be subject to validation and planned maintenance; their return to use should be approved.

### **Sanitation**

- 1.37 The sanitation of clean areas is particularly important. They should be cleaned thoroughly in accordance with a written programme. Where disinfectants are used, more than one type should be employed. Monitoring should be undertaken regularly in order to detect the development of resistant strains.
- 1.38 Disinfectants and detergents should be monitored for microbial contamination; dilutions should be kept in previously cleaned containers and should only be stored for defined periods

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unless sterilised. Disinfectants and detergents used in Grades A and B areas should be sterile prior to use.

- 1.39 Fumigation of clean areas may be useful for reducing microbiological contamination in inaccessible places.

### **Processing**

- 1.40 Precautions to minimise contamination should be taken during all processing stages including the stages before sterilisation.
- 1.41 Preparations of microbiological origin should not be made or filled in areas used for the processing of other medicinal products; however, vaccines of dead organisms or of bacterial extracts may be filled, after inactivation, in the same premises as other sterile medicinal products.
- 1.42 Validation of aseptic processing should include simulating the process using a nutrient medium. The form of the nutrient medium used should generally be equivalent to the dosage form of the product. The process simulation test should imitate, as closely as possible the routine aseptic manufacturing process and include all the critical subsequent manufacturing steps. Process simulation should be repeated at defined intervals and after any significant modification to the equipment and process. The number of containers used for a medium fill should be sufficient to enable a valid evaluation. For small batches, the number of containers for the medium fill should at least equal the size of the product batch. The contamination rate should be less than 0.1% with 95% confidence level.
- 1.43 Care should be taken that any validation does not compromise the processes.
- 1.44 Water sources, water treatment equipment and treated water should be monitored regularly for chemical and biological contamination and, as appropriate, for endotoxins. Records should be maintained of the results of the monitoring and of any action taken.

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- 1.45 Activities in clean areas and especially when aseptic operations are in progress should be kept to a minimum and movement of personnel should be controlled and methodical, to avoid excessive shedding of particles and organisms due to over-vigorous activity. The ambient temperature and humidity should not be uncomfortably high because of the nature of the garments worn.
  - 1.46 Microbiological contamination of starting materials should be minimal. Specifications should include requirements for microbiological quality when monitoring has indicated the need for this.
  - 1.47 Containers and materials liable to generate fibres should be minimised in clean areas.
  - 1.48 Where appropriate, measures should be taken to minimise the particulate contamination of the end product.
  - 1.49 Components, containers and equipment should be handled after the final cleaning process in such a way that they are not re-contaminated.
  - 1.50 The interval between the washing and drying and the sterilisation of components, containers and equipment as well as between their sterilisation and use should be minimised and subject to a time-limit appropriate to the storage conditions.
  - 1.51 The time between the start of the preparation of a solution and its sterilisation or filtration through a micro-organism-retaining filter should be minimised. There should be a set maximum permissible time for each product that takes into account its composition and the prescribed method of storage.
  - 1.52 The bioburden should be monitored before sterilisation. There should be working limits on contamination immediately before sterilisation that are related to the efficiency of the method to be used. Where appropriate the absence of pyrogens should be monitored. All solutions, in particular large volume infusion

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- fluids, should be passed through a micro-organism-retaining filter, if possible sited immediately before filling.
- 1.53 Components, containers, equipment and any other article required in a clean area where aseptic work takes place should be sterilised and passed into the area through double-ended sterilisers sealed into the wall, or by a procedure that achieves the same objective of not introducing contamination. Non-combustible gases should be passed through microorganism retentive filters.
- 1.54 The efficacy of any new procedure should be validated, and the validation verified at scheduled intervals based on performance history or when any significant change is made in the process or equipment.

### **Sterilisation**

- 1.55 All sterilisation processes should be validated. Particular attention should be given when the adopted sterilisation method is not described in the current edition of the European Pharmacopoeia, or when it is used for a product that is not a simple aqueous or oily solution. Where possible, heat sterilisation is the method of choice. In any case, the sterilisation process must be in accordance with the marketing and manufacturing authorisations.
- 1.56 Before any sterilisation process is adopted its suitability for the product and its efficacy in achieving the desired sterilising conditions in all parts of each type of load to be processed should be demonstrated by physical measurements and by biological indicators where appropriate. The validity of the process should be verified at scheduled intervals, at least annually, and whenever significant modifications have been made to the equipment. Records should be kept of the results.
- 1.57 For effective sterilisation the whole of the material must be subjected to the required treatment and the process should be designed to ensure that this is achieved.

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- 1.58 Validated loading patterns should be established for all sterilisation processes .
- 1.59 Biological indicators should be considered as an additional method for monitoring the sterilisation. They should be stored and used according to the manufacturers instructions, and their quality checked by positive controls.  
If biological indicators are used, strict precautions should be taken to avoid transferring microbial contamination from them.
- 1.60 There should be a clear means of differentiating products that have not been sterilised from those which have. Each basket, tray or other carrier of products or components should be clearly labelled with the material name, its batch number and an indication of whether or not it has been sterilised.  
Indicators such as autoclave tape may be used, where appropriate, to indicate whether or not a batch (or sub-batch) has passed through a sterilisation process, but they do not give a reliable indication that the lot is, in fact, sterile.
- 1.61 Sterilisation records should be available for each sterilisation run. They should be approved as part of the batch release procedure.

#### **Sterilisation by heat**

- 1.62 Each heat sterilisation cycle should be recorded on a time/temperature chart with a sufficiently large scale or by other appropriate equipment with suitable accuracy and precision. The position of the temperature probes used for controlling and/or recording should have been determined during the validation, and where applicable also checked against a second independent temperature probe located at the same position.
- 1.63 Chemical or biological indicators may also be used, but should not take the place of physical measurements.
- 1.64 Sufficient time must be allowed for the whole of the load to reach the required temperature before measurement of the

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sterilizing time-period is commenced. This time must be determined for each type of load to be processed.

- 1.65 After the high temperature phase of a heat sterilization cycle, precautions should be taken against contamination of a sterilized load during cooling. Any cooling fluid or gas in contact with the product should be sterilized, unless it can be shown that any leaking container would not be approved for use.

### **Moist heat**

- 1.66 Both temperature and pressure should be used to monitor the process. The temperature recorder should normally be independent of the controller, and there should be an independent temperature indicator, the reading from which is routinely checked against the chart recorder during the sterilization period. For sterilisers fitted with a drain at the bottom of the chamber, it may also be necessary to record the temperature at this position, throughout the sterilization period. There should be frequent leak tests on the chamber when a vacuum phase is part of the cycle.
- 1.67 The items to be sterilized other than products in sealed containers, should be wrapped in material which allows removal of air and penetration of steam but which prevents recontamination after sterilisation. All parts of the load should be in contact with water or saturated steam at the required for the required time.
- 1.68 Care should be taken to ensure that steam used for sterilization is of suitable quality and does not contain additives at a level which could cause contamination of product or equipment.

### **Dry heat**

- 1.69 The process used should include air circulation within the chamber and the maintenance of a positive pressure to prevent the entry of non-sterile. Any air admitted should be



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passed through a microorganisms-retaining filter. Where this process is also intended to remove pyrogens, challenge tests using endotoxins may be used as part of the validation.

### **Sterilization by radiation**

- 1.70 Radiation sterilization is used mainly for the sterilization of heat sensitive materials and products. Many medicinal products and some packaging materials are radiation-sensitive, so this method is permissible only when the absence of deleterious effects on the product has been confirmed experimentally. Ultraviolet irradiation is not normally an acceptable method of sterilization.
- 1.71 During the sterilization procedure the radiation dose should be measured. For this purpose, dosimetry indicators that are independent of dose rate should be used, giving a quantitative measurement of the dose received by the product itself. Dosimeters should be inserted in the load in sufficient number, and close enough together to ensure that there is always a dosimeter in the chamber. Where plastic dosimeters are used they should be used within the time limit of their calibration. Dosimeter absorbencies should be read within a short period after exposure to radiation.
- 1.72 Biological indicators may only be used as an additional control. Radiation-sensitive colour disks may also be used differentiate between packages that have been subjected to irradiation and those which have not; they are not indicators of successful sterilization. The information obtained should constitute part of the batch record.
- 1.73 Validation procedure should ensure that the effects of variations in density of the packages are considered.
- 1.74 Materials handling procedures should prevent mix-up between irradiated and non-irradiated materials. Each package should carry a radiation sensitive indicator to show whether or not it has been subjected to a radiation treatment.

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- 1.75 The total radiation dose should be administered within a predetermined time span.

**Sterilization with ethylene oxide**

- 1.76 This method should only be used when no other method is practicable. During process validation it should be shown that there is no damaging effect on the product and that the conditions and time allowed for degassing are such as to reduce any residual gas and reaction products to defined acceptable limits for the type of product or material.
- 1.77 Direct contact between gas and microbial cells is essential: precautions should be taken to avoid the presence of organisms likely to be enclosed in material such as crystals or dried protein. The nature and quantity of packaging materials can significantly affect the process.
- 1.78 Before exposure to the gas, materials should be brought into equilibrium with the humidity and temperature required by the process. The time required for this should be balanced against the opposing need to minimize the time before sterilization.
- 1.79 Each sterilization cycle should be monitored with suitable biological indicators, using the appropriate number of test pieces distributed throughout the load. The information so obtained should form part of the batch record.
- 1.80 For each sterilization cycle, records should be made of the time taken to complete the cycle, of the pressure, temperature and humidity within the chamber during the process and of the gas concentration. The pressure and temperature should be recorded throughout the cycle on a chart. The record(s) should form part of the batch record.
- 1.81 After sterilization, the load should be stored in a controlled manner under ventilated conditions to allow residual gas reaction products to reduce to the defined level. This process should be validated.

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## **Filtration of medicinal products which cannot be sterilised in their final container**

- 1.82 Filtration alone is not considered sufficient when sterilization in the final container is practicable, With regard to methods currently available, steam sterilization is to be preferred. If the product cannot be sterilized in the final container, solutions or liquids can be filtered through a sterile filter of nominal pore size of 0.22 micron (or less), or with at least equivalent micro-organism retaining properties, into a previously sterilized container. Such filters can remove bacteria and molds, but not all viruses or mycoplasmas. Consideration should be given to implementing the filtration process with some degree of heat treatment.
- 1.83 Due to the potential additional risks of the filtration method as compared with other sterilization processes, a second filtration via a further sterilized microorganism-retaining filter, immediately prior to filling, may be advisable. The final sterile filtration should be carried out as close as possible to the filling point.
- 1.84 Fibre-shedding characteristics of filters should be minimal.
- 1.85 The integrity of the sterilised filter should be verified before use and should be confirmed immediately after use by an appropriate method such as a bubble point, diffusive flow or pressure hold test. The time taken to filter a known volume of bulk solution and the pressure difference to be used across the filter should be determined during validation and any significant differences from this should be noted and investigated. Results of these checks should be included in the batch record. The integrity of other filters should be confirmed at appropriate intervals.
- 1.86 The same filter should not be used for more than one working day unless such use has been validated.
- 1.87 The filter should not affect the product by removal of ingredients from it or by released of substances into it.

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Finishing of sterile products.

- 1.88 Containers should be closed by appropriately validated methods. Samples should be checked for integrity according to appropriate procedures.
- 1.89 Containers sealed under vacuum should be sampled and the samples tested for maintenance of that vacuum after an appropriate, pre- determined period.
- 1.90 Filled containers of parenteral products should be inspected individually. When inspection is done visually, it should be done under suitable and controlled conditions of illumination and background. Operators doing the inspection should pass regular eye-sight checks, with spectacles if worn, and be allowed frequent breaks from inspection. Where other methods of inspection are used, the process should be validated and the performance of the equipment checked at intervals. Results should be recorded.

**Quality Control**

- 1.91 The sterility test applied to the finished product should only be regarded as the last in a series of control measures by which sterility is assured. The test should be validated for the product(s) concerned
- 1.92 In those cases where parametric release has been authorised, special attention should be paid to the validation and the monitoring of the entire manufacturing process
- 1.93 Samples taken for sterility testing should be representative of the whole of the batch, but should in particular include samples taken from parts of the batch considered to be most at risk of contamination, e.g.
  - 1.93.a for products which have been filled aseptically, samples should include containers filled at the beginning and end of the batch and end after any significant interruption of work;

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1.93.b for products which have been heat sterilized in their final containers, consideration should be given to taking samples from the potentially coolest part of the load.