

law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Director of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent that claims that human drug product.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and petitions to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Friedman, Office of Regulatory Policy (HFD-007), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-2041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Public Law 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For human drug products, the testing phase begins when the exemption to permit the clinical investigations of the human drug product becomes effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the human drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Director of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for a human drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(1)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the human drug product PLENAXIS (abarelix). PLENAXIS is indicated for the palliative treatment of men with advanced symptomatic prostate cancer, in whom luteinizing hormone releasing hormone agonist therapy is not appropriate and who refuse surgical

castration, and have one or more of the following: (1) Risk of neurological compromise due to metastases, (2) ureteral or bladder outlet obstruction due to local encroachment or metastatic disease, or (3) severe bone pain from skeletal metastases persisting on narcotic analgesia. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for PLENAXIS (U.S. Patent No. 5,843,901) from Praecis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated October 19, 2004, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of PLENAXIS represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product. Shortly thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for PLENAXIS is 2,566 days. Of this time, 1,487 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 1,079 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) became effective:* November 17, 1996. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the date the investigational new drug application became effective was on November 17, 1996.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the act:* December 12, 2000. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new drug application (NDA) for Plenaxis (NDA 21-320) was initially submitted on December 12, 2000.

3. *The date the application was approved:* November 25, 2003. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 21-320 was approved on November 25, 2003.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension, this applicant seeks 725 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published are incorrect may submit to the Division of Dockets

Management (see **ADDRESSES**) written or electronic comments and ask for a redetermination by November 28, 2006. Furthermore, any interested person may petition FDA for a determination regarding whether the applicant for extension acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period by March 28, 2007. To meet its burden, the petition must contain sufficient facts to merit an FDA investigation. (See H. Rept. 857, part 1, 98th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 41-42, 1984.) Petitions should be in the format specified in 21 CFR 10.30.

Comments and petitions should be submitted to the Division of Dockets Management. Three copies of any mailed information are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments and petitions may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: September 1, 2006.

Jane A. Axelrad,

Associate Director for Policy, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

[FR Doc. E6-15969 Filed 9-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 2005E-0253]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; TARCEVA

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for TARCEVA and is publishing this notice of that determination as required by law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Director of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent which claims that human drug product.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and petitions to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Friedman, Office of Regulatory

Policy (HFD-7), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-2041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Public Law 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For human drug products, the testing phase begins when the exemption to permit the clinical investigations of the human drug product becomes effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the human drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Director of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted, as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for a human drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(1)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the human drug product TARCEVA (erlotinib). TARCEVA is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer after failure of at least one prior chemotherapy regimen. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for TARCEVA (U.S. Patent No. 5,747,498) from Pfizer, Inc., and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated July 8, 2005, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of TARCEVA represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product. Thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested

that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for TARCEVA is 2,653 days. Of this time, 2,541 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 112 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) became effective:* August 16, 1997. The applicant claims October 10, 1997, as the date the investigational new drug application (IND) became effective. However, FDA records indicate that the IND effective date was August 16, 1997, which was 30 days after FDA receipt of the IND.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the act:* July 30, 2004. The applicant claims January 20, 2004, as the date the new drug application (NDA) for TARCEVA (NDA 21-743) was initially submitted. The applicant claims this is the date it submitted the first module of NDA 21-743, which was submitted in several modules as part of a rolling NDA submission procedure. It is FDA's position that the approval phase begins when the marketing application is complete. A review of FDA records reveals that the final module of the marketing application was submitted on July 30, 2004, which is considered to be the NDA initially submitted date.

3. *The date the application was approved:* November 18, 2004. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 21-743 was approved on November 18, 2004.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension, this applicant seeks 1,261 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published are incorrect may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**) written or electronic comments and ask for a redetermination by November 28, 2006. Furthermore, any interested person may petition FDA for a determination regarding whether the applicant for extension acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period by March 28, 2007. To meet its burden, the petition must contain sufficient facts to

merit an FDA investigation. (See H. Rept. 857, part 1, 98th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 41-42, 1984.) Petitions should be in the format specified in 21 CFR 10.30.

Comments and petitions should be submitted to the Division of Dockets Management. Three copies of any mailed information are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments and petitions may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: September 3, 2006.

Jane A. Axelrad,

Associate Director for Policy, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

[FR Doc. E6-15987 Filed 9-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 2006D-0383]

Draft Guidance for Industry on Characterization and Qualification of Cell Substrates and Other Biological Starting Materials Used in the Production of Viral Vaccines for the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft document entitled "Guidance for Industry: Characterization and Qualification of Cell Substrates and Other Biological Starting Materials Used in the Production of Viral Vaccines for the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases," dated September 2006. This guidance provides recommendations to manufacturers of viral vaccines for the characterization and qualification of cell substrates and viral seeds used in the production of viral vaccines for human use. This draft guidance, when finalized, will replace the information specific to viral vaccines contained in the 1993 document, entitled "Points to Consider in the Characterization of Cell Lines Used to Produce Biologicals."

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by December 28, 2006 to ensure their adequate consideration in preparation of the final guidance. General comments