Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group Meeting
12-13 November 2014

Meeting Highlights

EDQM premises
7 Allée Kastner
Strasbourg, France

1. Harmonization Topics Signed-off

1.1. Excipients

1.1.1. New

1.1.1.1. E-20 Hydroxypropylcellulose, Low Substituted (USP)

1.1.1.2. E-60 Sodium laurylsulfate (USP)

1.1.2. Revised

1.1.2.1. E-34 Saccharin Sodium Rev 2 (USP).

The revision was an outcome of the review of the three regional texts and the sign-off text:

- IR test is now harmonised and the drying conditions have been clarified.
- Clarity and colour are now considered as harmonised.
- Assay: a blank titration is now required.

1.1.3. Corrected

1.1.3.1. E-44 Stearic Acid Rev 1 Corr 2 (EP).

A correction was made to change the molecular weight of the potassium hydroxide titrant used in the test for Acid Value (Identification).

1.1.3.2. E-31 Polysorbate 80 Corr 2 (EP).

A correction was made to align the status of the characters section with PDG policy (non-harmonised attribute).

1.1.3.3. E-56 Glucose Monohydrate Corr 1 (EP).

A correction was made to adapt the sample size in the test for Soluble Starch, Sulphites. This text is expected to be signed off by correspondence.

2. Major Harmonization Topics

2.1. Viscosity tests: USP chapter concept proposal (USP)

The coordinating pharmacopoeia made an update to the viscosity test used in the three monographs for which PDG had previously agreed to start a pilot project: Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) Sodium, Hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC) and Hydroxypropylcellulose (L-HPC), Low Substituted. PDG decided on a strategy for the viscosimeters and methods to be used for each substance. In the case of HEC, PDG will set acceptance criteria based on the use of method and samples provided by the manufacturer. For CMC Sodium, a similar process will be followed. For L-HPC, PDG is awaiting study results from the manufacturer.

2.2. Elemental impurities (USP)

Each pharmacopoeia exchanged their current thinking on the implementation of the ICH Q3D Elemental Impurities Guideline.

3. Harmonization Progress on PDG Work Programme

3.1. Topics undergoing harmonization

3.1.1. G-20 Chromatography (EP)

A number of issues were resolved (e.g. resolution test and peak symmetry factor), but some challenges still remain, such as change from HPLC to UHPLC, allowed variations of gradient systems, and the repeatability criteria in impurity testing. These topics will be addressed by experts from the 3 pharmacopoeias.

3.1.2. E-08 Carmellose Sodium (USP)

PDG will need further data from IPEC on the specifications for the degree of substitution.

3.1.3. E-17 Ethylcellulose, Rev. 2 (EP) and E-18 Hydroxyethylcellulose (EP)

The harmonisation process for these items has been considerably delayed by difficulties in obtaining representative and consistent data until the receipt of recently reviewed data from IPEC. The discussion will resume at the next PDG meeting to allow PDG to review this data.

3.1.4. E-28 Petrolatum and E-29 Petrolatum, White (USP)

The coordinating pharmacopoeia is currently investigating methods for the determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), using samples from different manufacturers and different grades and in collaboration with IPEC cluster. Enquiries are underway in Europe and USA. Collaboration with European Wax Federation is in progress

3.1.5. E-30 Polyethylene Glycol (USP)

The coordinating pharmacopoeia is about to finalise the test for formaldehyde and will propose testing on a number of samples representing, as far as possible, all grades of polyethylene glycol for pharmaceutical use. Input from the IPEC cluster will be solicited regionally.

3.1.6. E-36/37 Silicon Dioxide/Silicon Dioxide, Colloidal (JP)

The main challenge for this item is to agree on a suitable identification test due to the overlap between the grades of silicon dioxide. The issue has been brought to the attention of IPEC to solicit information on appropriate methods and acceptance criteria.

3.1.7. E-43 Wheat Starch, Rev. 3 (EP)

PDG discussed the strategy for improvement of the test for Total Proteins (sulphuric acid digestion and neutralisation). The coordinating pharmacopoeia will provide a protocol for collaborative testing at the next PDG meeting.

3.1.8. E-54 Copovidone (JP)

The coordinating pharmacopoeia has finalised the validation of the tests for 1-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone and Vinyl Acetate as part of the Stage 4 Proposal. IPEC will be given the opportunity to test the method before the monograph is published as stage 4 enquiry.

3.1.9. E-61 Starch, Pregelatinized (JP)

The coordinating pharmacopoeia shared the results of experiments to distinguish different grades by viscosity measurement. The coordinating pharmacopoeia will verify the exact type of viscosity equipment required before testing additional samples to be obtained from IPEC.

3.1.10. E-62 SWFI in Containers (USP)

PDG still needs to find consensus on a number of issues, such as the use of total organic carbon versus oxidisable substances. PDG agreed to convene a meeting consisting of specialists from the three pharmacopoeias to discuss a potential way forward.

3.1.11. E-63 Lactose for Inhalation (USP)

PDG agreed to consider a number of tests as non-mandatory recommendations and for the coordinating pharmacopoeia to develop a liquid chromatography method for related substances and assay.

3.2. Discuss status of all harmonisation items

PDG members discussed the status of all harmonisation items on the PDG workplan. Actions and outcomes were documented for all topics covered.

4. Discussion of PDG Process

During the June 2014 meeting, PDG had made a number of decisions aimed at improving its process. PDG has already implemented a number of these action items in this respect and will monitor their outcome in the coming months. PDG will continue to reflect on how to improve transparency and the efficiency of its work. One topic for the next PDG meeting will be to review mechanisms for how items are prioritised in the PDG Work Programme.

5. General discussion on Pharmacopoeial Harmonisation

With respect to the API pilot prospective harmonisation project started 6 years ago, USP and EP have agreed to finalise a decision before the end of this year and to subsequently inform stakeholders of the outcome. All three Pharmacopoeias remain committed to Pharmacopoeial Harmonisation.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is proposed for June 30 – July 1, 2015 in Tokyo, Japan.