

is appropriately classified as a combination product, shall consult with the component within the Office of the Commissioner that is responsible for such determinations;

- Ensure timely and effective premarket reviews by overseeing the timeliness of and coordinating reviews involving more than one agency center;
- Ensure the consistency and appropriateness of postmarket regulation of like products subject to the same statutory requirements to the extent permitted by law;
- Address any dispute regarding the timeliness of the premarket review of a combination product, unless the dispute is clearly premature.

New section 503(g)(4)(F) of the act also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the new office, to review each agreement, guidance, or practice specific to the assignment of combination products to agency centers and to report annually to the appropriate committees of Congress on the activities and impact of the office.

On December 24, 2002, FDA established the Office of Combination Products to carry out the responsibilities under section 503(g) of the act and to perform other activities related to combination products. More information about the office is available at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/combination/>.

To enhance the efficiency of agency operations, the Office of Combination Products is assuming responsibility from the Office of the Ombudsman for designating the component of FDA with primary jurisdiction for the premarket review and regulation of any product requiring a jurisdictional designation under this part. Such decisions may involve determinations of: (1) The regulatory identity of a product as a drug, device, biologic, or combination product; (2) the agency component that will have jurisdiction for any drug, device, or biological product where such jurisdiction is unclear or in dispute; and (3) the primary mode of action and assignment of a lead center for a combination product. The act requires the office, in determining whether a product is appropriately classified as a combination product, to consult with the component within the Office of the Commissioner that is responsible for such determinations. Since the Office of the Commissioner has now assigned to the Office of Combination Products the responsibility for such determinations, no separate consultation is necessary.

II. Summary of the Final Rule

FDA is making the following changes to part 3 to establish rules of agency organization, procedure, and practice, that are consistent with new section 503(g)(4) of the act and are otherwise clear and appropriate:

- (1) FDA is amending § 3.1 to cite MDUFMA as an additional authority.
- (2) FDA is amending § 3.2 to modify the definition of “agency component” to be consistent with definition of “agency center” provided in MDUFMA.
- (3) FDA is amending § 3.6 to identify the Office of Combination Products as the agency’s product jurisdiction officer.
- (4) FDA is amending § 3.7 to provide information related to the submission of electronic copies of requests for designation concurrent with the submission of the official request.
- (5) FDA is amending § 3.9 to reflect that a nonconsensual change in the designated agency component requires the concurrence of the Principal Associate Commissioner. This change reflects the current organizational structure of FDA’s Office of the Commissioner.

III. Authority for Issuing Final Rule

This rule provides an administrative mechanism to determine which agency component has responsibility for the review of an application. The agency determined that this is “a matter relating to agency management” and a rule of “agency organization, procedure, or practice” and, as such, is exempt from notice and comment under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2) and (b)(A)). FDA also finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and § 10.40(e) (21 CFR 10.40(e)) to forego notice and comment as it would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest to delay implementation of this rule. As provided under FDA’s administrative practices and procedures regulation (§ 10.40(e)), FDA is providing an opportunity for public comment on whether the regulation should be modified or revoked.

IV. Environmental Impact

The agency has determined under 21 CFR 25.30(h) that this rule is of a type that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

V. Analysis of Impacts

Because this is a rule of agency organization, procedure, practice, and management that is issued as a final rule, and not as a proposed rule, the

requirements of Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), and the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4) do not apply. However, FDA has examined the impacts of this final rule under those provisions. Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). The agency believes that this final rule is consistent with the regulatory philosophy and principles identified in the Executive order. In addition, the final rule is not a significant regulatory action as defined by the Executive order and so is not subject to review under the Executive order. When applicable, the Regulatory Flexibility Act requires agencies to analyze regulatory options that would minimize any significant impact of a rule on small entities. This rule is merely procedural in nature and imposes no new burdens on small entities. Indeed, the purpose of the procedures embodied in this rule is to expedite the review of combination products, and this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Finally, a summary statement or analysis under section 202(a) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 is required only for nonprocedural rules that impose costs of \$110 million or more on either the private sector or state, local, and tribal governments in the aggregate. This rule imposes no such costs.

VI. Federalism

FDA has analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles set forth in Executive Order 13132. FDA has determined that the rule does not contain policies that have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Accordingly, the agency has concluded that this final rule does not contain policies that have federalism implications as defined in the Executive order and, consequently, a federalism summary impact statement is not required.

VII. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This final rule contains no collections of information. Therefore, clearance by