

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 animal drug products, the testing phase begins on the earlier date when either a major environmental effects test was initiated for the drug or when an exemption under section 512(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 360b(j)) became effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the animal drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug 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 an animal drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(4)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the animal drug product DERAMAXX (deracoxib). DERAMAXX is indicated for the control of postoperative pain and inflammation associated with orthopedic surgery. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for DERAMAXX (U.S. Patent No. 5,521,207) from G. D. Searle L.L.C., 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 16, 2003, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this animal drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of DERAMAXX 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 DERAMAXX is 1,675 days. Of this time, 1,578 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, and 97 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 512(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(j)) involving this animal drug product became effective:* January 21, 1998. The applicant claims January 27, 1998, as the date the investigational new animal drug application (INAD) became effective. However, FDA records indicate that the date of FDA's letter assigning a number to the INAD was January 21, 1998, which is considered to be the effective date for the INAD.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the animal drug product under section 512(b) of the act:* May 17, 2002. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the new animal drug application (NADA) for DERAMAXX (NADA 141-203) was initially submitted on May 17, 2002.

3. *The date the application was approved:* August 21, 2002. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NADA 141-203 was approved on August 21, 2002.

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 882 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 January 30, 2004. 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 June 1, 2004. 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 (see **ADDRESSES**). 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: October 29, 2003.

Jane A. Axelrad,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 2003F-0535]

Vulcan Chemicals; Filing of Food Additive Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Vulcan Chemicals has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulation for chlorine dioxide be amended to provide for an additional method for producing the additive.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by December 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments 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: Paul C. DeLeo, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-265), Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, MD 20740-3835, 202-418-3014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 4A4751) has been filed by Vulcan Chemicals, P.O. Box 385015, Birmingham, AL 35238-5015. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in § 173.300 Chlorine dioxide (21 CFR 173.300) to provide for an additional method for producing the additive.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations issued under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**) for public review and