COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 1999/82/EC

of 8 September 1999

amending the Annex to Council Directive 75/318/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to analytical, pharmacotoxicological and clinical standards and protocols in respect of the testing of medicinal products

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 75/318/EEC of 20 May 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to analytical, pharmacotoxicological and clinical standards and protocols in respect of the testing of medicinal products [1], as last amended by Directive 93/39/EEC [2], and in particular Article 2(a)(1) thereof,

(1) Whereas Commission Decision 97/534/EC of 30 July 1997 on the prohibition of the use of material presenting risks as regards transmissible spongiform encephalopathies [3] defines specified risk materials, provides for their elimination at source and prohibits their import into the Community;

(2) Whereas, prior to being marketed, all medicinal products, whether they originate in the Community or are imported from third countries, are subject to an approval procedure in the context of which the treatment process of any raw material is evaluated, in conformity with the provisions of the Annex to Directive 75/318/EEC;

(3) Whereas this approval procedure applies to all medicinal products to be placed on the market in the Community, notwithstanding the origin of the product or the raw materials contained therein; whereas, thereby, the compliance with Community law of medicinal products, starting materials and intermediate products which are imported into the Community to be used in the manufacture of medicinal products is systematically controlled and checked;

(4) Whereas on 21 April 1999, the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products adopted an updated Note for Guidance on Minimising the Risk of Transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents via Medicinal Products;

(5) Whereas, in drafting this updated Note for Guidance, the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products took into account all relevant Opinions of the Scientific Committee on Medicinal Products and Medical Devices, as well as the Scientific Steering Committee and additional scientific considerations which apply to the specific field of medicinal products;

(6) Whereas, the Note for Guidance on Minimising the Risk of Transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents via Medicinal Products will have to be regularly updated and modified by the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, taking into account the latest scientific developments;

(7) Whereas the Note for Guidance on Minimising the Risk of Transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents via Medicinal Products and its updates are published by the European Commission in Volume 3 of its publication 'The rules governing medicinal products in the European Union';

(8) Whereas this Note for Guidance is considered to be adequate to assure that the risk of transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy via medicinal products is minimised since manufacturers of medicinal products are obliged under Directive 75/318/EEC to take into account the relevant Community guidelines in assembling the dossier for application for marketing authorisation;

(9) Whereas it contributes to the clarity of the legal situation and ensures the highest reasonable level of protection of public health to amend the Annex to Directive 75/318/EEC to expressly make compliance with the above Note for Guidance binding with regard to all marketing authorisations for medicinal products and to provide for an appropriate phasing-in period for already existing marketing authorisations;

(10) Whereas the measures provided for in this Directive are in conformity with the opinion of the Standing Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

The Annex to Directive 75/318/EEC is hereby amended as shown in the Annex.

[1] OJ L 147, 9.6.1975, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 214, 24.8.1993, p. 22.
[3] OJ L 216, 8.8.1997, p. 95.