EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

8 December 2022
EMA/CVMP/QWP/857608/2022
Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP)

Guideline on declaration of storage conditions: A) in the product information of pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products B) for active substances

Annex to guideline on stability testing of new veterinary drug substances and medicinal products

Annex to note for guidance on stability testing of existing active substances and related finished products

Agreed by the Quality Working Party	January 2002
Adoption by CVMP for release for consultation	13 March 2002
Start of consultation	15 March 2002
End of consultation	30 June 2002
Agreed by quality working party	12 June 2003
Adoption by CVMP	23 July 2003
Date for coming into effect	31 October 2003
Revision 1*	
Agreed by QWP	23 November 2022
Adoption by CVMP	8 December 2022
Date for coming into effect	17 February 2023

Official address Domenico Scarlattilaan 6 ● 1083 HS Amsterdam ● The Netherlands
Address for visits and deliveries Refer to www.ema.europa.eu/how-to-find-us
Send us a question Go to www.ema.europa.eu/contact **Telephone** +31 (0)88 781 6000 An agency of the European Union

© European Medicines Agency, 2023. Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

*The current revision consists of administrative changes made in order to align the guideline with Regulation (EU) 2019/6, as amended, and 2019/4. The references to the legislation applicable and other scientific guidelines have also been updated as appropriate. As no changes were made to the scientific content, no concept paper and no public consultation were deemed necessary. The document reference number is changed to ensure correct document management. The former document reference number is EMEA/CVMP/422/99/Rev.3.

Keywords	***storage conditions, stability testing***

Guideline on declaration of storage conditions

Table of contents

A. Declaration of storage conditions in the product information of pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products

1. Background

Suitable storage conditions, consistent with those defined in the SPC should be included in the package leaflet and on the product labelling, if appropriate, as stated in Regulation (EU) 2019/6.

The storage conditions for pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products should be based on evaluation of the stability studies undertaken on the finished product. Details of the conditions recommended for these stability studies are included in the relevant CVMP/VICH Guidelines where storage conditions for real time studies were chosen as 25 °C/60% RH supported by accelerated conditions or, where applicable, intermediate conditions and based on the mean kinetic temperature of climatic zone I/II, the relevant zone for the EU. The mean kinetic temperature includes the annual variations, i.e. lower and higher temperatures during winter and summer seasons. Thus, storage at a continuous temperature of 25°C during real time stability studies, covers the actual temperature exposure likely to be encountered under ambient conditions throughout Europe, including real time excursions from 25 °C.

2. Objective

The purpose of this guideline is to set out uniform statements on storage conditions for inclusion in the labelling of medicinal products and to define when they apply.

3. Scope

This guideline is intended as an Annex to the stability guidelines and relates to marketing authorisations for all product categories other than immunological products.

4. Core storage statements

The storage conditions must be possible for the user to follow and it is therefore necessary to restrict the statements to those achievable in practice. Results from stability studies, presented at the time of submission, should serve as guidance and there should be a direct linkage between the label statements and the demonstrated stability characteristics of the finished product. However, a storage statement cannot be used to compensate for insufficient stability data e.g., omission of stability studies at accelerated or intermediate testing conditions. The use of terms such as 'room temperature' or 'ambient conditions' is unacceptable.

Testing conditions where the product is stable	**Required label**	**Additional label*, where relevant**	**SPC and Package Leaflet**
25°C/60% RH (long term) 40°C/75% RH (accelerated) or 30°C/65% RH (long term) 40°C/75% RH (accelerated)	None	*Do not refrigerate or freeze. Protect from frost* +	This veterinary medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.
25°C/60% RH (long term) 30°C/60% or 65% RH (intermediate) or 30°C/65% RH (long term)	Do not store above 30°C } Store below 30°C } ▽	*Do not refrigerate or freeze. Protect from frost* +	Do not store above 30°C } Store below 30°C } ▽
25°C/60% RH (long term)	Do not store above 25°C } Store below 25°C } ▽	*Do not refrigerate or freeze. Protect from frost* +	Do not store above 25°C } Store below 25°C } ▽
5°C ± 3°C (long term)	Store in a refrigerator or Store and transport refrigerated **	*Do not freeze.*	Store in a refrigerator (2°C - 8°C) <u>or</u> Store and transport refrigerated (2°C - 8°C)**
Below zero	Store in a freezer <u>or</u> Store and transport frozen***		Store in a freezer (*temperature range to be given*) <u>or</u> Store and transport frozen*** (*temperature range to be given)*

* Depending on the pharmaceutical form and the properties of the product, there may be a risk of deterioration due to physical changes if subjected to low temperatures. Low temperatures may also have an effect on the packaging in certain cases. An additional statement may be necessary to take account of this possibility.

+ E.g. for containers stored on farm.

** The stability data generated at 25°C/60% RH (accelerated) should be taken into account when deciding whether or not transport under refrigeration is necessary. The statement should only be used in exceptional cases.

*** The statement should only be used when critical.

▽ Either statement is acceptable.

The exact wording of the statements given in the table above will be applied throughout the Union taking into consideration that because of national linguistic and cultural differences, two alternatives are presented for storage below 25 °C and below 30 °C, respectively, and it is the decision of the competent authority which of these should be used. Any other statements are only acceptable if unavoidable and, in particular, where the core storage statements are documented to be inappropriate. The alternative proposal is to be supported by relevant data and must be realistically achievable in practice.

5. Other specific storage statements

In principle, medicinal products should be packaged in containers that ensure stability and protect the product from deterioration. A storage statement should not be used to compensate for inadequate or inferior packaging. Nevertheless, the following statements may be used to emphasise the need for storage precautions to the user.

	Storage problem	**Additional labelling statements * depending on the packaging**	**Comment**
1	Sensitivity to moisture	Keep the container*** tightly closed.	E.g. plastic bottles
2	Sensitivity to moisture	Store in the original package.	E.g. blisters
3	Sensitivity to light**	Store in the original container/package.	
4	Sensitivity to light**	Keep container*** in the outer carton.	
5.	Sensitivity to light**	Protect from light.	E.g. containers stored on farm.

* When such a standard statement is used, an explanation specifying whether the product is sensitive to light and/or moisture should be added.

** Details of evaluation are included in the CVMP/VICH Guideline on photostability testing.

*** The actual name of the container should be used e.g. bottle, blister

However, additional labelling statements may be required, particularly for products stored under farm conditions e.g. 'Store in a dry place', 'Protect from direct sunlight'. Additional proposals are to be justified.

Where a supplementary warning e.g., "Store in the original package", "Protect from direct sunlight", etc, is required, the statement in the SPC "This product does not require any special storage precautions" (see footnote to the table in section 4) should be revised to read "This medicinal product does not require any special temperature storage conditions" as necessary.

The exact wording of the above labelling texts will be uniformly applied throughout the Union.

B. Declaration of storage conditions for active substances

The storage conditions for active substances should be based on evaluation of the stability studies undertaken on the active substance. The principles elaborated above in relation to standard storage declarations for finished medicinal products should also form the basis for storage declarations of active substances.

For substances to be stored/transported refrigerated or frozen, the temperature range should be included in the labelling.