Guidance for Industry

Drugs, Biologics, and Medical Devices Derived from Bioengineered Plants for Use in Humans and Animals

DRAFT GUIDANCE

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Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH)
Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB)
Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS)

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Additional copies of this guidance are available from:
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This guidance document represents the agencies’ current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA, USDA, or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of applicable statutes and regulations.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Scope

This document is the result of a combined effort by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide guidance with regard to the use of bioengineered plants or plant materials to produce biological products, including intermediates, protein drugs, medical devices, new animal drugs, and veterinary biologics regulated by FDA or USDA (hereafter referred to as “regulated products”). This document does not address non-protein drugs, botanicals, or allergenic products (21 CFR 680.1) for human use. It should be noted, however, that if a bioengineered pharmaceutical plant is used to produce a non-protein drug product, the principles described in this document regarding the host and source plant characterization and the environmental considerations would be applicable. If you are planning to produce a non-protein drug product for human use in a bioengineered pharmaceutical plant, consultation with FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) early in the drug development process is encouraged. For the purposes of this document, the term “bioengineered pharmaceutical plant” means any plant manipulated by recombinant DNA technology to express a gene encoding a biological or drug product.

Within this document, “you” refers collectively to sponsors, manufacturers, licensees, and applicants; “we” refers to FDA and/or USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)/Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB).

This document outlines important scientific questions and information that you should address during the investigation of a new animal drug and preparation of an Investigational New Drug (IND) application, Investigational Device Exemptions (IDE), Biologic License Application (BLA), New Drug Application (NDA), New Animal Drug Application (NADA), Premarket Approval (PMA), or 510(k) to the FDA, or a United States Veterinary Biological Product License Application (VBPLA) to the USDA (hereafter referred to as “your application”). This document presents points that you should consider to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of products from bioengineered pharmaceutical plants for use in...
humans or animals or as components in clinical diagnostic systems.

In addition, this document presents points you should consider in addressing environmental issues as well as confinement measures that should be an integral part of the manufacturing process for all pharmaceutical products produced in bioengineered pharmaceutical plants or plants infected with engineered vectors containing genetic material for the expression of regulated products.

This document is directed at the issues unique to the use of bioengineered pharmaceutical plants as source material for the production of FDA and/or USDA regulated products. Therefore, it does not focus on many aspects of regulated products that are shared with other expression systems. Given the complexity and variety of products, no single document can anticipate and address all issues. You are encouraged to consult other FDA and USDA documents for guidance on other specific topics relevant to your product.

You should be aware that the Biotechnology Regulatory Services Division (BRS) within APHIS oversees the importation and interstate movement of bioengineered pharmaceutical plants and infectious plant vectors as well as the release of these entities into the environment (i.e., outside of a contained facility, such as a greenhouse, laboratory, or fermentor). You must receive a permit from APHIS/BRS prior to engaging in these activities (7 CFR 340). You may obtain guidance on applying for a permit at the USDA/APHIS website http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotech or by writing to USDA/APHIS/BRS (see addresses in Appendix A). This document will not describe the plant permitting process.

B. Regulatory Responsibility

The FDA regulates human biologics, and human and animal drugs derived from bioengineered pharmaceutical plants, intended for therapeutic, preventative, or diagnostic purposes. Biological products and drugs for use in humans are regulated by the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) and CDER under authority of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) (42 U.S.C. 262 et seq.) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.). FDA also regulates animal drugs derived from bioengineered pharmaceutical plants, intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in animals or to alter the structure or function of the animal. New animal drugs and animal feeds containing new animal drugs are regulated by the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) under authority of the FD&C Act. The FDA regulations are found at Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (21 CFR).

The USDA regulates veterinary biologics through the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) within Veterinary Services in APHIS under the authority of the Virus, Serum, and Toxins Act (21 U.S.C. 151 et seq.). The USDA regulations are found at Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) Parts 101-124.

As mentioned above, APHIS/BRS regulates the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment (e.g., field testing) of all such bioengineered pharmaceutical
plants, under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772). The APHIS/BRS regulations are found at Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR), in particular 7 CFR 340.

Appendix A provides a listing of the points of contact at the agencies.

To minimize duplication, review of environmental safety issues posed by field growth of the bioengineered pharmaceutical plants, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessments, will be addressed primarily by APHIS/BRS. Because bioengineered pharmaceutical plants will be grown under APHIS permit, and because permits enabling field trials will be obtained prior to submission of a product application, APHIS/BRS will identify and evaluate the potential environmental effects posed by field growth of such plants. Environmental concerns posed by use of the regulated product will be addressed in the NEPA analysis conducted by the regulatory agency responsible for review and/or approval of the product. These agencies' NEPA analyses will take into account APHIS/BRS's environmental reviews. Also refer to section III.B. National Environmental Policy Act.

II. HOST AND SOURCE PLANT CHARACTERIZATION

A. General Considerations

In the development stage, you should give careful consideration to choosing the plant species that will be used as the source of the desired regulated product. Concerns to be addressed include: the potential for the plant to express an allergenic or toxic compound; the method of plant propagation and the measures to ensure confinement; and, if it is a food crop species engineered to produce non-food material, the measures to ensure that non-food (or non-feed) material will not get into food or feed. The presence of any such material in food or feed could render such products adulterated under the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 342).

You are encouraged to refer to pertinent guidance documents and regulations, and to consult with the regulatory agencies as early as possible in the development process to ensure that you are aware of the most current regulatory requirements.

B. Host Plants

You should provide in your application a thorough description of the host plant biology that includes information necessary to identify it in the narrowest taxonomic grouping applicable (e.g., genus, species, subspecies, variety or cultivar, line designation).

In order for the agencies to assess the ability of the chosen plant to consistently manufacture your intended product, you should submit a description of the reproductive biology of the unmodified plant and production practices with regard to:

- growth habitat as an annual, perennial, or biennial;
- timing of sexual maturity and duration of flowering;
- seed production and harvesting;
recognized practices for maintaining seed stock purity;
conditions of growth;
timing of harvest;
method of harvesting; and
transporting, storage and sorting of harvested materials.

In addition, you should provide a description of the host plant including levels of any toxins, anti-nutrients, and allergens known to be produced by the plant species and whether it is known to accumulate heavy metals. Please state if the plant is of a species used for food or feed in a raw or processed form.

C. Bioengineered Source Plants

1. General Considerations

The host plant may be bioengineered to increase the expression of an endogenous gene product or to manipulate the plant to produce a heterologous gene product. The modifying gene may be transiently added to the plant or it may be inserted in a stable manner. Regardless of the method of gene expression used, traceable documentation of the growth and expression phase of the manufacturing process, including banking of the plant lines and/or vectors should be maintained. Most importantly, you should include data in your application to demonstrate that the source plant produces a consistent product.

When the bioengineered pharmaceutical plant is from a species that is used for food or feed, measures should be in place to ensure that there is no inadvertent mixing of the bioengineered plant material with plant material intended for food or feed use. The presence of any such material in food or feed could render such products adulterated under the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 342). We strongly recommend that you have tests available that can detect the presence of the target gene and the protein product in the raw agricultural commodity.

2. Characterization of the Recombinant DNA

In your application, you should provide a full characterization of the recombinant DNA constructs or viral vectors used to transfer genes, including:

- the origin and function of all component parts of the construct, including coding regions, antibiotic- or herbicide-resistance genes, origins of replication, promoters, and enhancers;
- physical map of the construct(s) illustrating the position of each functional component;
- method used for plasmid propagation;
- any sequences required for bacterial expression of plasmid constructs;
- the nucleotide sequence of the intended insert up to and including the junctions at the 5’- and 3’- ends; and
- any changes in codons to reflect more acceptable codon usage in plants.
For the purposes of this document, coding regions include full-length and truncated sense constructs, antisense constructs, and constructs containing ribozymes, regardless of whether or not the coding region is designed or expected to be expressed in the bioengineered pharmaceutical plant.

For additional details regarding analysis of r-DNA constructs for human biologics, please refer to the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH); Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use – Guideline Q5B: Quality of Biotechnological Products: Analysis of the Expression Construct in Cells Used for Production of r-DNA Derived Protein Products (Ref. 1).

3. Stable Transformation Systems

Before preparing Master Seeds or Master Seed Banks (MSB) and Working Seeds or Working Seed Banks (WSB), we recommend that you establish a suitable transformant. For stable transformation systems, you should describe the gene transfer method in detail and provide relevant references, as appropriate. An analysis should be performed to determine the number of copies of the gene inserted, the number of integration sites, and to demonstrate if complete or partial copies are inserted into the plant’s genome. You should determine the nucleotide sequence of the insert from DNA or mRNA retrieved from the stably-transfected plants in order to confirm the integrity and fidelity of the DNA insert. When a fragment of a coding region designed to be expressed in a plant is detected, you should determine whether a fusion protein could be produced and in which host tissues it may be located.

If the transformation system utilizes a pathogenic organism or nucleic acid sequences from a pathogen, you should provide a description of the pathogen, the strain, and the gene(s) involved. If any such pathogenesis-related DNA sequences were removed or altered prior to transformation, you should describe these changes in detail. Any helper plasmids or analogous DNA fragments used in the transformation process should also be described. For example, for Agrobacterium-mediated transformation, provide the strain designation of the Agrobacterium used during the transformation process, indicate how the Ti plasmid-based vector was disarmed, and indicate whether Agrobacterium was cleared from the transformed tissue.

You should submit a complete description of the process, including selection methods for the final transformant. You should include the source of and the methods used to prepare the recipient tissue or cells and, if the tissues or cells are cultured or pre-treated in any way, you should provide a complete description of the reagents used and composition of the culture medium. For direct transformation methods, you also should provide a thorough description of the transforming DNA preparation: including amount and concentration of transgenic
DNA; the nature, source, and concentration of any carrier DNA; the composition and source of carrier particles; and the source and concentration of any other excipients. In addition, you should describe in detail any tests used to evaluate the transformations process and provide the results.

4. **Transient Transfection Systems:**

Virus-mediated transient transfection systems, in their simplest form, employ two components: a recombinant virus vector and a host plant. Characterization of the host plant should include the information outlined in section II. B., above. The information you provide regarding the recombinant virus vector should include the following:

- the taxonomic name of the virus, including family, genus, and strain designation, including any synonyms;
- the type of nucleic acid contained in the virus (DNA or RNA);
- whether the virus is associated with any satellite or helper viruses;
- the natural host range of the virus;
- how the virus is transmitted;
- if the virus is transmitted by a vector, the identity of the vector including mode of transmission (e.g., persistent or non-persistent);
- the identity of the viral gene(s) (if known) involved in vector transmission;
- whether any synergistic or transcapsidation interactions with other viruses under field situations have been reported in the literature;
- the protocol for purification of the virus;
- the protocol for cloning of recombinant virus;
- a description of the preparation of the Master Plasmid Bank (MPB), if one is used;
- the storage conditions and data demonstrating stability of the MPB;
- the protocol for the preparation of infectious nucleic acid from plasmid; and
- data characterizing the infectious nucleic acid with respect to its identity with the parental genome.

You should include relevant literature citations to any of the above information, as appropriate.

5. **Genetic Stability: Seed Banks and Vegetative Propagation**

Regardless of whether a transient-transfection system or a stable transformation system is used, you should prepare a MSB and a WSB to ensure consistent lot-to-lot growth of the plant and expression of the regulated product. The description of the MSB in your application should include the identification, the method of production, the results of analytical tests used to characterize it, the size of the bank, the storage conditions, and data demonstrating its viability, bioburden (including speciation of contaminants), uniformity of gene content, and stability.
You should submit data demonstrating that bioengineered pharmaceutical plant lines derived through stable transformation are stable in both phenotype and genotype. To demonstrate genetic stability, you should include data from a segregation analysis for the trait of interest, as well as from a molecular characterization of the genomic insert (e.g., Southern analysis) and from analyses of expression of the intended product.

For plants that are fertile, you should provide data demonstrating the pattern and stability of inheritance and expression of the new traits over several generations sufficient to ensure stability over the number of generations that will be used during manufacture of the regulated product.

For plants that are infertile or for which it is difficult to produce seed (such as vegetatively propagated male-sterile potatoes), you should provide data to demonstrate that the trait is stably maintained and expressed during vegetative propagation over a number of cycles that is appropriate to the crop.

6. Tissue Distribution of Expression Products

For all inserted coding regions, you should provide data that demonstrates whether the protein is or is not produced (describe assay method and indicate limit of detection) as intended in the expected tissues consistent with the associated regulatory sequences driving its expression (e.g., if the gene is inducible, you should determine if the gene is expressed in the expected tissues under induction conditions). You should provide quantitative data characterizing the distribution of the product in the major plant tissues (e.g., leaves, roots, stalks, seeds).

III. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. General Considerations

Using bioengineered pharmaceutical plants to produce regulated products for use in animals or humans raises a number of environmental concerns that you should address, including confinement measures that may be needed to control the spread of the bioengineered pharmaceutical plants and to keep them from entering the food or feed supply. We encourage you to consult with the regulatory agencies as early as possible in the development process to ensure that you are aware of the most current regulatory requirements. For example, you should contact APHIS/BRS for more information on regulations governing the plants while in the field or in transport. APHIS/BRS authorization is required for the interstate movement, importation, and field release of plants addressed by this guidance (7 CFR 340). For most initial experiments and commercial uses of these plants, a USDA/APHIS/BRS permit will be needed. Refer to USDA regulations (7 CFR 340) that can be found at APHIS's home page http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotech.
Draft – Not for Implementation

Bioengineered pharmaceutical plants that are grown exclusively in an enclosed building (e.g., greenhouse) generally will be considered to be confined during the growing period if there are control measures in place to eliminate the spread of pollen or seeds outside of the facility. Growing plants in such an enclosed building does not require a USDA/APHIS/BRS permit, however, the importation or interstate movement of bioengineered pharmaceutical plants would require a permit (7 CFR 340.4).

B. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

You should be aware of NEPA requirements for both the FDA (21 CFR part 25) and the USDA (7 CFR part 372). You should consider the potential environmental impact of all aspects of the manufacturing process, including but not limited to transport of seeds and plants, planting, growing, harvesting, processing, purifying, packaging, storage, and disposal. If you believe that your activities are categorically excluded by 7 CFR 372.5(c), 21 CFR 25.31, or 25.33 from the requirement to submit an environmental assessment, you should state this in your application. You are encouraged to consult available guidance documents (Refs. 2, 3) and to talk directly with the USDA and the FDA regarding NEPA requirements. A copy of the letter from APHIS/BRS granting your permit should be submitted in your application for the regulated product in support of the environmental assessment (21 CFR 25.15 and 25.40) or the claim of categorical exclusion (21 CFR 25.31, 25.33 or 7 CFR 372.5(c)). FDA and CVB intend to take APHIS/BRS evaluations and determinations into account in doing their own NEPA assessments.

C. Confinement Measures

1. General Considerations

Regardless of whether the bioengineered pharmaceutical plants are grown and/or processed by you or on a contractual basis by other persons, manufacturing controls are your responsibility and should be documented clearly in standard operating procedures (SOPs), Outlines of Production, or other records, as appropriate (see section IV.C., Applicable FDA and USDA Regulations). For FDA regulated products, refer to 21 CFR 200.10, parts 210 and 211, 514.1, and 820.50; see also FDA’s Draft Guidance for Industry: Cooperative Manufacturing Arrangements for Licensed Biologics (Ref. 4) once it is finalized.

In developing a bioengineered pharmaceutical plant, you should implement procedures to ensure that such a plant line is used only for its intended purpose as a source material for a regulated product. As described in 7 CFR 340.4, 340.7, and 340.8, a permit from USDA/APHIS/BRS is required for the interstate transport of bioengineered pharmaceutical plants or seeds for such plants, and you must keep records documenting the handling and transfer of such materials.

Shipment of bioengineered pharmaceutical plants for veterinary biologics requires permission from USDA/APHIS/BRS. When manufacturing firms are shipping
veterinary biological products at any stage of production, shipment must be
authorized by CVB and is regulated under 9 CFR 103.3. Such controlled transfer
of source materials helps ensure that these plants are not diverted to unintended
uses.

When a plant species that is used for food or feed is bioengineered to produce a
regulated product, you should consider the use of strategies that allow the
bioengineered pharmaceutical plant line to be readily distinguished from its food
or feed counterpart. Such strategies might include the use of genetic markers that
alter the physical appearance of the plant (e.g., a novel color or leaf pattern), or
change the conditions under which a plant will grow (e.g., the use of an
auxotrophic marker gene). You should also consider strategies to reduce the
likelihood of unintended exposure to a regulated product by restricting the
expression of the bioengineered pharmaceutical product to a few specific plant
tissues (e.g., the use of tissue specific promoters) or by restricting the conditions
under which the product will be expressed (e.g., use of an inducible promoter).
For such plants that outcross, you may want to consider growing them in regions
of the country where little or none of its food/feed counterparts are grown.

Measures should be in place to ensure that there is no inadvertent mixing of the
bioengineered pharmaceutical plant with plant material intended for food or feed
(including inadvertent mixing with seeds for food or feed crops). During the
development of your overall production process (from the farm through the final
product), you should determine where in the process inadvertent mixing could
occur and establish appropriate control measures. We strongly recommend that
you have tests available that can detect the presence of the target gene and the
protein product in the raw agricultural commodity. The presence of the target
gene or gene product in food or feed could render such products adulterated under
the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 342). You may wish to consult with FDA’s Center for
Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) or with CVM about the legal
implications of any such material getting into food or feed.

2. Control of Seed Stocks

You should maintain careful control over the inventory and disposition of viable
seeds to preclude the possibility that such seeds will be used to produce material
that could be used for food or feed production. When seed stocks are produced,
there should be an accounting of the total yield of seed (e.g., by weight or by
volume). Seed stocks should be stored in aliquots of appropriate volume to allow
reasonably accurate accounting of use and disposition. A record of the amount
and disposition of any withdrawals from the seed bank should be made (7 CFR
340.4(b)(12)). Seed stocks should be prominently labeled in accordance with the
permit issued by APHIS/BRS for field growth or interstate shipment of
bioengineered seeds (7 CFR 340.7).
3. Field-grown Plants

You must have a permit from APHIS/BRS to grow bioengineered pharmaceutical plants in the field (7 CFR 340.4) and must have control over the growing process from planting through harvesting and over the disposition of remaining crops and/or crop residue and, if required, over the subsequent use of the field if for growth of food or feed or as a pasture during subsequent seasons. All persons involved in field growth of the product should be adequately trained to perform the duties for which they are responsible. Control measures should include an accounting of seed that is transferred from seed bank storage to the field for planting, or for archiving. Documentation of the size and location of all sites where the bioengineered pharmaceutical plants will be grown, of the control of pollen spread, and of the subsequent use of the field and destruction of volunteer plants in subsequent growing seasons should be maintained and provided to the FDA and CVB, as appropriate. Fields should be unambiguously identified, such as by Global Position Satellite (GPS) markers. We recommend that you consider the use of perimeter fencing to help exclude wildlife and escaped livestock. All fields used to grow source bioengineered pharmaceutical plants are subject to inspection by the USDA (7 CFR 340.4; 9 CFR 101-108) and/or by the FDA (42 U.S.C. 262; 21 U.S.C. 374).

4. Control of Harvested Material

APHIS requires that appropriate confinement procedures be in place for transport of the source material from the field or greenhouse to the production facility (7 CFR 340.4(b)(10-12)). During transport, containers of harvested material should carry a label that clearly indicates that the material, including but not limited to seeds, leaves, roots, and stems, is not to be used for food or feed or for any purposes in which residual materials could be used for food or feed (such as ethanol production). Reconciliation of the quantities of material leaving the growing facility and arriving at the processing facility should be made. In manufacturing of a regulated product, records must be kept to document control over harvested material in accordance with 21 CFR part 211 subpart J, 21 CFR part 226 subpart E, 7 CFR 340.4, or 9 CFR part 116 and made available for inspection by the FDA or CVB, as appropriate.

5. Control at Processing Facilities

As stated in section III.C.1., you should implement appropriate procedures to ensure that bioengineered pharmaceutical plants or plant materials do not unintentionally mix with other plant products, particularly those used as food or feed. Source plant materials should not be processed in facilities that also are used for the production of food or feed, such as grain mills, without prior consultation with USDA/APHIS/BRS and FDA.
6. Control of Waste Material

In-process wastes (e.g., column wash solutions, diafiltration solutions, etc.), rejected in-process material, and residual source plant material from the purification process should be treated to inactivate the regulated product prior to disposal, as appropriate. They should be disposed in a manner to ensure that the material will not enter the human or animal food chain unless you have specifically consulted with FDA for the use of this material in food or feed products. Disposal should conform to local and state regulations. Waste material from the manufacture of human drug and biological products, or animal drugs should be disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner (21 CFR 211.50). Veterinary biologic materials should be disposed of in a manner consistent with 9 CFR 114.15, Disposal of Unsatisfactory Products and By-products, following Veterinary Services Memorandum 800.56. If, rather than disposal, the residual material is to be used for a secondary purpose other than a food or feed product, there should be clear procedures in place to verify the disposition of this material and by-products and to document that it will not be used for food or feed.

IV. MANUFACTURING AND PROCESS-RELATED CONSIDERATIONS

A. General Considerations

Facilities and procedures used for the manufacturing of regulated products should be designed to prevent contamination and cross-contamination during harvest and processing of source material. The flow of personnel, material, product, and waste into and out of the facility should be designed to prevent contamination of the product. You should establish written procedures for appropriate cleaning, maintenance, and sanitization of equipment and utensils to prevent malfunctions or contamination that would alter the safety, identity, strength, quality, or purity of the drug products beyond established requirements (21 CFR 211.67). In controlled areas with specified air classifications, a program for monitoring the environment for viable and non-viable particulates should be established based on the criticality of the manufacturing process involved and should include active monitoring of critical manufacturing processes as they are performed. For FDA-regulated products, manufacturing controls, including process validation, should be appropriate for the type of product and stage of development. The regulations governing facilities requirements are listed in section IV.C., Applicable FDA and USDA Regulations.

Because microbiological contaminants can have an adverse effect on product safety, quality, and stability, we recommend that you establish processing steps to decrease bioburden levels as the material moves through the manufacturing process (21 CFR 211.80(b)). The validation activities described in this section should be phased in during the investigational phase, as the clinical studies progress toward submission of a regulated product application. It should be noted however that assurance of sterility or limits on bioburden in the final product may be required as appropriate, depending on the final form and intended use of the product (e.g., parenteral vs. whole fruit or vegetable). (21 CFR 211.80, 211.100-103, and
You should only use source materials with appropriate quality attributes for manufacture of the product. Each lot of source material should be assessed for the presence of foreign matter. Care should be taken to minimize contaminants (e.g., molds and other agents that may be present in the source material) that could lead to the inadvertent exposure of recipients of regulated products to undesirable impurities or could affect product quality (e.g., microbial proteases).

For veterinary biologics, manufacturing must be in accordance with an Outline of Production filed with CVB as required by 9 CFR 114.8 and 114.9. For all other regulated products, you must document the manufacturing procedure and lot-specific data (21 CFR part 211 subpart F, 226.102, part 514, and 820.184). You should ensure that source material is propagated, harvested, and processed in accordance with written standard operating procedures that will ensure the adequate processing of the plant derived material and specify the acceptable limits and kinds of contaminants that may be present. Specifications should be established regarding the health status of the plants at the time of viral infection and/or harvest.

B. Special Considerations for Whole Fruit or Vegetable Products

One of the challenges in the use of whole vegetables and/or fruits as the delivery system for edible biologics is the demonstration of batch uniformity and consistency of dose. A homogenization step to produce a uniform bulk drug substance, such as a puree, juice, or milled grain may be necessary. Testing could then be conducted on this homogenized product to demonstrate potency. In addition, if the plant line used for production is known to be allergenic, you should consult with FDA or CVB, as appropriate, to discuss the safety and regulatory issues.

- Packaging for regulated products must comply with applicable regulations. For FDA-regulated products, packaging should be consistent with 21 CFR parts 210, 211, 226, 314, 514, 600, 610, and 820. Packaging for APHIS/CVB-regulated products should comply with 9 CFR part 112. Although edible products for pharmaceutical use in humans, such as whole fruit or vegetable vaccines, are regulated as biologics, not foods, we generally recommend that you package your edible biological products in material that conforms to food packaging regulations (21 CFR 174.5). The plant source must be clearly identified in the label or packaging material for biologics for use in humans (21 CFR 610.61(p)) or animals (9 CFR 112). The plant source should be clearly identified in the labeling of both oral and non-oral prescription drugs (21 CFR 201.57(a)(2); see also 21 CFR 201.100(b)(4) and (5)). For products containing viable seeds, you should consult with FDA or CVB, as appropriate.

C. Applicable FDA and USDA Regulations

The specific regulations applicable to the manufacture of a regulated product derived from
bioengineered pharmaceutical plants are based on: the intended recipient of the product (i.e.,
human or animal); the intended use of the product (e.g., biologic, drug, or device); and the
intended route of administration (e.g., parenteral vs. oral). The Table below includes, but is
not limited to, the following applicable regulations for specific classes of regulated products
for use in humans or animals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned use</th>
<th>Applicable regulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human drug or biologic for parenteral administration</td>
<td>7 CFR part 340, 21 CFR parts 210, 211, 312, 314, 600, 601, 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human drug or biologic for oral administration</td>
<td>7 CFR part 340, 21 CFR 174.5, parts 210, 211, 312, 314, 600, 601, 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologic device for human use</td>
<td>7 CFR part 340, 21 CFR parts 600, 601, 610, 812, 814, 820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal drug: Type A medicated articles and Type B and C medicated feed</td>
<td>7 CFR part 340, 21 CFR parts 225, 226, 500, 510, 511, 514, 515, 558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal drug</td>
<td>7 CFR part 340, 21 CFR parts 210, 211, 500, 510, 511, 514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary biologic</td>
<td>7 CFR part 340, 9 CFR parts 101-118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We encourage you to refer to FDA and CVB guidance documents for additional information
and recommendations specific to the product class. Any exceptions to the regulatory
requirements must be obtained as provided by regulation. For example, the general safety,
sterility, and mycoplasma tests prescribed in 21 CFR 610.11-12 and 610.30 (for biologics
for use in humans) or 9 CFR 113.26-28 (for veterinary biologics) may be inappropriate for
some products (e.g., edible plant material intended for use as an oral dosage form) and
modifications or alternative, but equivalent, methods of demonstrating a product's safety and
sterility may be permitted in accordance with 21 CFR 610.9 or the product may be
exempted in accordance with 9 CFR 113.4 (see Table, above).

D. Product Manufacturing Procedures

1. General Considerations

Your application should include a description of each step of the purification
process including analytical tests to demonstrate identity, purity, and
concentration, and the levels of product related and non-product related
impurities. This is particularly important if the impurities are determined to be
toxins, allergens, teratogens, or carcinogens. For each process that is not intended
to be sterile, you should describe the procedures to be followed to control
extraneous bioburden and the in-process testing used to monitor the level of
bioburden (see, 21 CFR 211.113, 226.102, 312.23, 314.50(d), 514.1(b), 820.70, 820.181, and 820.184). A summary of the manufacturing, including propagation
of the source material, should be available at the site where the manufacturing
occurred (21 CFR 211 subpart J). You should consult with the appropriate
agency regarding the applicability of these considerations to device components.
2. **Growth Conditions**

The Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC) section or the Outline of Production should include information regarding the location of source plant propagation. For greenhouse-grown material, you should include in the description the types of containers, the soil mix composition and qualification criteria, and the greenhouse growth conditions. For field grown material, the description should include the previous uses of the land (e.g., agricultural and/or industrial use). We recommend that you establish specification/acceptance criteria/limits for the soil composition and potential soil contaminants that may affect the source material. In addition, you should describe the agricultural methods utilized during crop growth, including specifications regarding the use of chemicals and limits on specific agricultural practices (e.g., the use of specified fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides, and irrigation practices relative to a specified harvest time frame, etc.). You should provide in your application a list of expected pests that will require control during the growth of the bioengineered pharmaceutical plants. All pest-control measures implemented should be in accordance with good agricultural practices for the growth of food crops in the United States. The Pesticide Product Information System (Ref. 5) contains information concerning all pesticide products registered in the United States. In order to evaluate the purity of the product, all pest-control interventions should be described in appropriate SOPs and should be documented in the Batch Record (for FDA-regulated products) or Outline of Production (for veterinary biologics). We recommend that you follow current Good Agricultural Practices (e.g., Ref. 6). If product expression is induced, either chemically or physically, you should establish criteria to ensure that induction is performed consistently from batch to batch. (See generally, 21 CFR parts 210, 211, 226, 312, 314, 514, 601, 610, and 820; see e.g., 21 CFR 211.84, 211.186, 312.23(a)(7), 314.50(d), 514.1, 820.50, and 9 CFR parts 101-118.)

3. **Harvest**

You should describe the method of harvesting the source material in written procedures and document the process in production records. You should have procedures for determining when the harvest will occur in order to ensure lot-to-lot consistency of the source material. You should establish specifications for the harvested material with regard to the levels of active component, process-derived contaminants, significant endogenous impurities, and adventitious agents. For example, you should describe agricultural practices and training of harvesting personnel regarding plant source material quality (e.g., assessment of the disease status of plant for manual harvesting operations, etc.) (21 CFR part 211 subpart B). You should have written procedures for establishing the necessary training of personnel engaged in harvesting plants to ensure the quality of the harvested material (21 CFR 211.25). We recommend the use of dedicated equipment. We recommend that equipment-cleaning procedures be developed and that cleaning agents used on harvesting equipment be described (21 FR 211.67). In addition,
you should consider measures to prevent the contamination of the harvested source material with equipment lubricants during processing. (21 CFR part 211 subparts F and J; 21 CFR part 226; 21 CFR 314.50(d)(1), 514.(b)(5); 21 CFR part 814 subpart B; 21 CFR 820.70, 820.75, 820.181, 820.250; and 9 CFR parts 101-118).

The description of the harvesting process in the CMC section or Outline of Production should include specifications regarding acceptable conditions of the plants and a listing of equipment used to harvest the source material, including power equipment, hand tools, and transport equipment (see Table, above, for applicable regulations and refer to applicable FDA and CVB guidance documents). If the equipment is not dedicated to harvesting only the source material, other uses should be documented.

4. **Transfer and Storage Conditions**

Of special concern is the transfer of source material from the field or greenhouse to the manufacturing facility (see section III.C.1., Confinement Measures; for authorities concerning the movement of plant materials). The source material should be transported in such a way as to exclude introduction of insects, vermin, or potential surface contaminants, which may be carried from the farm field or greenhouse environment, and to ensure that plant material remains confined within the container during transport. We recommend that during transport, containers of regulated product material should carry a label that clearly indicates that the material is not to be used for food or feed.

If the harvested source material is to be stored prior to further processing, the storage conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity, volume, density, storage time, etc.) should be fully described in your application. The material to be stored should be characterized and all properties that may be reasonably expected to affect product quality should be identified and appropriate controls should be specified (e.g., stability of the product, ability to support growth of microorganisms, residual soil content, presence of foreign material, insects, vermin). Source material should be stored under appropriate conditions to ensure that decomposition processes do not increase the concentration of contaminants above specified levels or adversely affect the desired active pharmaceutical ingredient. (21 CFR parts 211, 226, 314, 514, 601, and 820, and 9 CFR parts 101-118).

5. **Initial Processing of Source Material**

Procedures used to process harvested material should be validated. Harvested material may be processed to lower bioburden or viability, improve its handling characteristics, bulk consistency, and/or its extractability using various procedures, including washing, sanitizing, milling of grain, shredding of leaves, and homogenization of source plant material, fruits or vegetables. The material
produced by these processes may be intended for further processing or for use as the final product (e.g., as an oral vaccine). (21 CFR 211.110, 211.186, 226.40, and 820.75, and 9 CFR parts 101-118).

6. **Extraction**

The extraction process should be designed to efficiently concentrate the active component or separate it from the rest of the plant material. As with any purification procedure, the extraction method should not introduce contaminants into the process intermediate. Acceptance criteria for relevant parameters (e.g., product concentration, total protein concentration) should be established in order to verify lot-to-lot consistency. If the drug or biologic is extracted into a soluble form, it is advisable to implement sterilizing filtration procedures early in the process. (See generally, 21 CFR 226.40, 312.23(a)(7), 314.50, 514.1(b)(5)(iv), 820.75 and 9 CFR parts 101-118.)

7. **Aseptic Processing**

For those products for which sterility is required, sterility of protein products is usually achieved through the use of appropriately validated filtration steps. However, for products for which sterile filtration is not feasible, we recommend that you use a validated aseptic process. For FDA-regulated products, refer to 21 CFR 211.113, 610.12(g)(4), and 820.75, and current guidance, such as the Guideline on Sterile Drug Products Produced by Aseptic Processing (Ref. 7) and Guidance for Industry: For the Submission of Documentation for Sterilization Process Validation in Applications for Human and Veterinary Drug Products (Ref. 8). For veterinary biologics, refer to 9 CFR 113.26 and 113.28 for further information.

8. **Changeover Procedures**

Changeover procedures designed to prevent contamination between harvests of source material should be in place and documented (21 CFR 211.67, 226.30, and 820.75). These procedures should include clearance of all materials and waste from the receiving area and plant material processing equipment, and cleaning/sanitization of surfaces. Pieces of equipment used for harvesting (e.g., scythe bars, harvested material transportation vehicles) and initial source material processing (e.g., maceration equipment) are of particular concern in terms of cross-contamination. We recommend that only one lot of source material be processed at a time. If multiple lots of source material are to be processed at one time, segregation procedures should be developed and implemented. Integrity of processing equipment should be demonstrated or closed systems employed, when possible. Product contact equipment should be sufficiently cleaned between each lot operation to prevent product carry-over contamination of subsequent lots.
9. **Process Validation**

All processes used to manufacture the product should be validated prior to marketing the regulated product. Laboratory studies may help to establish appropriate operating and process parameters and may be used in support of the formal validation study. You should include information and data from validation protocols and executed validation studies in your application. (21 CFR 211.110, 211.165, 211.194(a)(2), and 226.40)

**E. Characterization of the Product**

You should provide a complete characterization of the regulated product. For purified drug substances and drug products provide a characterization sufficient to ensure its identity, strength, quality, and purity (21 CFR 211.160-165, 211.186, 226.58, 312.23(a)(7), 314.50(d)(1)(i), 601.2(a), 820.60, 820.70, 820.75, 820.80-86, and 820.181). You should include both physicochemical as well as functional assessments. For purified protein products, the physicochemical description should also include molecular weight, subunit composition, isoelectric point, post-translational modifications, impurity profile, and other relevant parameters. Functional assays should evaluate clinically relevant activities of the product. You should provide a description of the potency assay for the active component. You should submit information on the sensitivity, specificity, and variability of all assays, including the data from the material used to prepare clinical/pre-clinical lots and prelicense serials that were used to set the acceptance limits for the assay.

In your application, you should provide specifications for the product, including identity, purity, potency, physicochemical measurements, and measures of stability (21 CFR 211.160(b) or 9 CFR 114.9). If test results are reported for final release of the product, you should establish estimates of variability and upper and lower limits for each specification. If the purified drug substance is held prior to further processing, a description of the storage conditions and verification of its stability under the conditions described should be included (see section V.). For FDA-regulated biological products, you are encouraged to consult related guidance documents for general product characterization guidance (Refs. 9, 10). For new animal drugs, consult with CVM and for veterinary biologics, CVB.

You should give special consideration to the characterization of edible plant biologics as noted above (section IV.B.) especially for measurements of identity of the active drug or biologic, bioburden limits, dose considerations and final presentation of the product (e.g., juice, puree, whole fruit, etc.).

**F. Product Stability**

Your application should include a stability protocol containing, but not limited to, testing for:

- potency;
- physicochemical measurements that are stability-indicating;
- moisture, if lyophilized;
For products intended for use in humans and for new animal drugs, you should submit information on the stability of the final product and any in-process material at each holding step (21 CFR 211.166, 226.58(d), 312.23(a)(7)(iv), 314.50(d)(1), 601.2(a), and 820.75).

Additional information for human drugs and biologics can be found in ICH and FDA guidance documents (Refs. 9, 10), in 21 CFR part 514, and a CVM specific guidance document for new animal drugs (Ref. 11). FDA has also published a draft guidance document issued for public comment and an ICH document on human drug and biological product stability (Refs. 12, 13). For veterinary biologics, you should establish the stability of the product prior to licensure.

You should propose an expiration dating period for the final product and designate the recommended storage conditions. Also, you should define the procedure for determining the date from which the expiration dating period begins.

A plan for an ongoing stability program should be provided in your application. This should include the protocol to be used, number of final lots/serials to be entered into the stability protocol each year, and how such lots/serials will be selected.

V. PRE-CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BIOENGINEERED PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT-DERIVED PRODUCTS FOR USE IN HUMANS

A. General Considerations

This section does not attempt to delineate acceptable practices or testing procedures for each specific technology or particular class of products, but rather is to provide a general approach to pre-clinical testing of bioengineered pharmaceutical plant-derived products for use in humans. You should consult with the appropriate reviewing division of the appropriate agency for pre-clinical requirements for a specific product class.

The extent of pre-clinical testing will be determined by the known attributes of the product, the donor genetic material, the host plant, and the extent of structurally and pharmacologically comparable products for which there is clinical experience. Guidance for the pre-clinical testing of various biological products is available (Refs. 14-16). Additional consideration given to pre-clinical testing of the bioengineered pharmaceutical plant source material includes the presence and identity of potentially harmful constituents such as: toxicants, pathogens, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, heavy metals, anti-nutrients, and allergens. Both in vitro and in vivo studies may contribute to this characterization.

For plant lines derived from a host plant or related species having a known potential to produce toxins, anti-nutrients, or allergens, you should perform sensitive tests early in
product development to demonstrate whether the levels of these components have changed in the bioengineered source plant. If the donor of the DNA is known to be a source of allergens or toxicants, then you should perform appropriate allergenicity or toxicity testing.

B. Evaluation of Impurities

Impurities and contaminants include: source-plant-derived impurities, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, bacterial or fungal-derived impurities, and downstream processing-derived impurities. Product-related impurities include degradation products, aggregates, or other modified forms of the desired product (e.g., deamidated, isomerized, mismatched disulfide-linked, oxidized, or altered conjugated forms). You should give special attention to post-translational modifications unique to plant expression systems, for example the presence of xylose in glycoproteins.

Further information on this topic is provided in the ICH; Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use - Guideline Q6B Specifications: Test Procedures and Acceptance Criteria for Biotechnological/Biological Products (Ref. 9).

1. Toxicants

If the host species is known to contain toxicants (e.g., protease inhibitors, hemolytic agents, neurotoxins), analytical tests, animal tests, or validation of removal may be appropriate to establish that the toxicant levels are in a safe range in the final product. Consult with FDA for further guidance.

2. Evaluation of Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fungicide Levels

You should use only pesticides, herbicides and/or fungicides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use on the crop you are using. With regard to the final pharmaceutical product, you should specify the maximum amount of any pesticide, herbicide, and/or fungicide residues anticipated to be present, justify the safety of those amounts under conditions of anticipated use of the pharmaceutical, and demonstrate that the final product does not exceed those limits. A developer who has a new plant that expresses both a bioengineered biologic product and a bioengineered pesticide should consult with EPA regarding the safety of the pesticide. In some instances, validation of removal of the pesticide from the preparation may be an acceptable alternative to final product safety tests. This document only addresses FDA and USDA guidance; if you have questions regarding the use or safety of pesticides, you should contact EPA.

3. Evaluation of Metal Toxicants

You should evaluate both the presence and levels of toxic heavy metals. Consideration should be given to the host plant and whether it stores or accumulates these metals.
C. Allergenicity

As part of the pre-clinical evaluation, you should consider the allergenicity or immunogenicity of the intended biological product or drug. Appropriate testing protocols depend upon the intended effect of the product, the intended use (route of administration of the product), and the purity of the product. You should assess the need for allergenicity testing for each product on an individual basis and take into account production methods that might introduce allergens into the final product (e.g., from inadvertent contamination by mold, animal dander, animal excrement, or dust mite due to field or storage conditions), in addition to the potential allergenicity of the bioengineered pharmaceutical plant, itself. Consult with FDA for further guidance.

If the source plant producing the product is allergenic or immunogenic, you should test the product for those substances. Consideration should be given to plant-specific modifications, such as altered glycosylation (e.g., xylose), with regard to potential effects on immunogenic and allergic responses to the intended product.

You should evaluate the final product for allergenic determinants, such as N-glycans. Specific serum screening of the expressed protein could be evaluated using sera derived from patients allergic to the source material. Any positive outcome from specific serum screening would define the product as likely to be allergenic.

D. Immunogenicity

You should evaluate your product for plant specific modifications that may contribute to unintended immunogenicity. Standard immunogenicity testing for these products should be performed according to existing guidance (Refs. 14, 15) and consultation with FDA.

VI. CLINICAL TESTING FOR FDA-REGULATED PRODUCTS AND PRE-LICENSE TESTING FOR USDA-REGULATED PRODUCTS

We recommend that you refer to existing guidance(s) for conduct of clinical studies for drugs and biologics for humans and contact CDER or CBER, respectively if you have further questions. The potential residues of animal drugs (derived from bioengineered plants) in edible food animal tissues may be of concern, and you should contact CVM directly for guidance. You should contact CVM or CVB before animal drugs or veterinary biologics are tested on non-laboratory animals.
VII. DEFINITIONS

APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the USDA.

Batch – a specific quantity of a drug or other material that is intended to have uniform character and quality, within specified limits, and is produced according to a single manufacturing order during the same cycle of manufacture.

Bioengineered pharmaceutical plant – a plant manipulated by recombinant DNA technology to express a gene encoding a biologic or drug product.

BLA – Biologics License Application.

BRS – Biotechnology Regulatory Services Division of the USDA/APHIS.


Coding region – protein coding regions contain an open reading frame which can be transcribed into messenger RNA to direct the synthesis of a protein product.

Confinement – measures implemented to control the co-mingling of bioengineered pharmaceutical plants with non-bioengineered plants or to limit the distribution of an introduced gene to a defined area.

Construct – an engineered DNA fragment that contains, but is not limited to, the DNA sequences to be integrated into a target plant's genome.

CBER – Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research of the FDA.

CDER – Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the FDA.

CDRH – Center for Devices and Radiological Health of the FDA.

CFSAN – Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition of the FDA.

CVB – Center for Veterinary Biologics of the USDA/APHIS.

CVM – Center for Veterinary Medicine of the FDA.

Direct delivery systems – gene delivery systems that do not use biological agents to introduce foreign genes into plants. Examples include electroporation, the chemical polyethylene glycol, microprojectile bombardment, and injection via a capillary tube or pipette.


FDA – United States Food and Drug Administration.
Genetic stability – the ability of the introduced DNA to be inherited in a predictable fashion and
the introduced trait to be expressed in the transformed plant line and plant lines derived
therefrom in a consistent, reliable, and predictable manner.

Host Plant – the parent plant prior to insertion of the gene encoding the regulated product.

ICH – International Conference on Harmonisation.

IDE – Investigational Device Exemption.

INAD – notice of claimed investigational exemption for a New Animal Drug that must be
submitted prior to shipment of a new animal drug for clinical tests; establishes an Investigational
New Animal Drug file, if one has not already been established for the new animal drug.

IND – Investigational New Drug Application.

Indirect delivery systems – indirect delivery systems use a biologic agent to introduce the
foreign genes into the plant's genome.

Lot – a batch, or a specific identified portion of a batch, having uniform character and quality
within specified limits; or, in the case of a process, it is a specific identified amount produced in
a unit of time or quantity in a manner that assures its having a uniform character and quality
within specified limits.

Marketing application – a BLA, NDA, NADA, PMA, 510(k), or VBPLA.

MSB – Master Seed Bank (or Master Seed for veterinary biologics).

NADA – New Animal Drug Application.

NDA – New Drug Application.


New animal drug – are articles other than food intended for therapeutic, preventative,
mitigation or diagnostic purposes OR alter the structure and function of the animal.

Non-coding region – DNA sequences that lie outside of an open reading frame and which are
not translated to become part of a protein. These might include scaffold attachment regions,
promoters, leader sequences, enhancers, introns, terminators, and any other sequences that are
used for gene expression either in the plant or other hosts.

Outline of Production – a detailed protocol of methods of manufacture to be followed in the
preparation of a veterinary biological product.
Draft – Not for Implementation

**Raw agricultural commodity** – any food in its raw or natural state, including all unprocessed fruits, vegetables, nuts, and grains.

**Regulated products** – FDA- or CVB-regulated intermediates, and biological products, vaccines, and drugs, intended for human or animal use and/or animal feed.

**Serials** – consecutive lots or batches in support of a CVB product license application.

**Source material** – plant biomass from which the regulated product is produced.

**Source plant** – bioengineered host plant.

**Source plant material** – any biomass, including seeds, from a source plant.

**Target gene** – the gene encoding the regulated product, including any linked regulatory elements and selectable markers.

**Trait(s)** – the phenotypic characteristic(s) conferred to the recipient plant by the introduced DNA.

**Transfection system** – a method for transitory gene expression using a plant virus.

**Transformation event** – the introduction into an organism of genetic material that has been manipulated in vitro. For the purpose of this document, ‘organism’ refers to plants.

**Transformation system** – a method for introducing new genes into plants by either direct or indirect delivery systems.

**USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture.

**VBPLA** – United States Veterinary Biological Product License Application.

**Vector** – an autonomously replicating DNA molecule into which foreign DNA is inserted and then propagated in a host cell.

**Veterinary biologic** - all viruses, serums, toxins, or analogous products at any stage of production, shipment, distribution, or sale, which are intended for the use in the treatment of animals and which act primarily through the direct stimulation, supplementation, enhancement, or modulation of the immune system or immune response.

**Viral vector** – a virus that has been modified to contain foreign genes.

**Virus** – infectious agents containing only nucleic acid and a protein coat that can enter and replicate in a cell.

**WSB** – Working Seed Bank (or Working Seed for veterinary biologics).
VIII. REFERENCES

1. ICH; Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use - Guideline Q5B: Quality of Biotechnological Products: Analysis of the Expression Construct in Cells Used for Production of r-DNA Derived Protein Products – (1996).


APPENDIX A

CONTACTS:

To apply for a permit for importation, interstate movement, and field testing of bioengineered plants and plant viruses:

James White, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Biotechnology Regulatory Services, Unit 147
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737
Ph. # (301) 734-5940
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/biotech

For permission to ship experimental veterinary biological products (9 CFR 103.3 authorization) or for information regarding veterinary biologics:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Center for Veterinary Biologics
Licensing and Policy Development
510 S. 17th St., Suite 104
Ames, Iowa 50010
Ph. # (515) 232-5785; Fax # (515) 232-7120
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb/

For permission to import veterinary biological products:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Center for Veterinary Biologics
4700 River Road, Unit 148
Riverdale, MD 20737
Ph. # (301) 734-8245; Fax # (301) 734-4314
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb/

For information regarding therapeutic or diagnostic biologics for use in humans:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Biologies Evaluation and Research
Office of Therapeutics Research and Review
1401 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD  20852
Ph. # (301) 827-5101; Fax # (301) 827-5397
www.fda.gov/cber

For information regarding vaccines for use in humans:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
For information regarding animal feeds and animal drugs:
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Veterinary Medicine
HFV-200, 7500 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855
Ph. # (301) 827-6652; Fax # (301) 827-1484
www.fda.gov/cvm

For consultation on issues related to human food:
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
HFS-013, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740-3835
Ph # (301) 436-1715; Fax # (301) 436-2637
www.cfsan.fda.gov

For information regarding drugs for use in humans:
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
Ph.# (301) 827-4573; Fax # (301) 827-3056
www.fda.gov/cder

For information regarding medical devices:
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Devices and Radiological Health
Division of Small Manufacturers Assistance
1350 Piccard Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
Ph.# (301) 443-6597; Fax # (800) 638-2041
www.fda.gov/cdrh