

# Common Queries on IP

## General Statements

The General Notices provide the basic guidelines for the interpretation and application of the standards, tests, assays, and other specifications of the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), as well as to the statements made in the monographs and other texts of the Pharmacopoeia.

A monograph is to be constructed in accordance with any general monograph or notice or any appendix, note or other explanatory material that is contained in this Pharmacopoeia and that is applicable to that monograph. All statements contained in the monograph, except where a specific general notice indicates otherwise and with the exceptions given hereafter, constitute standards for the official articles. An article is not of pharmacopoeial quality unless it complies with all of the requirements stated.

Exceptions to the General Notices do exist, and where they do, the wording in the individual monograph or an appendix takes precedence and specifically indicates directions or the intent. Thus, the specific wording of standards, tests, assays and other specifications is binding wherever deviations from the General Notices exist. Likewise, where there is no specific mention to the contrary, the General Notices apply.

**Name.** The full name or title of this book, including addenda thereto, is Indian Pharmacopoeia 2010, abbreviated to IP 2010. In the texts, the term “Pharmacopoeia” or “IP” without qualification means the Indian Pharmacopoeia 2010 and any addenda thereto.

**Official and Official Articles.** The word ‘official’ wherever used in this Pharmacopoeia or with reference thereto, is synonymous with ‘pharmacopoeial’, with ‘IP’ and with ‘compendial’. The designation IP in conjunction with the official title on the label of an article is an indication that the article purports to comply with IP standards.

The following terms are used where the articles for which monographs are provided are to be distinguished.

An official substance is a single drug or a drug entity or a pharmaceutical aid for which the monograph title includes no indication of the nature of a dosage form.

An official preparation is a drug product (dosage form) and is the finished or partially finished preparation or product of one or more official substances formulated for use on the patient.

An article is an item for which a monograph is provided, whether an official substance or an official preparation.

**Official Standards.** The requirements stated in the monographs apply to articles that are intended for medicinal

use but not necessarily to articles that may be sold under the same name for other purposes.

The active pharmaceutical ingredients (drug substances), excipients (pharmaceutical aids), pharmaceutical preparations (dosage forms) and other articles described in the monographs are intended for human and veterinary use (unless explicitly restricted to one of these uses).

The requirements given in the monographs are not framed to provide against all possible impurities, contaminants or adulterants; they provide appropriate limitation of potential impurities only.

A preparation must comply throughout the shelf-life assigned to it by the manufacturer; for opened or broached containers the maximum period of validity for use may sometimes be stated in the individual monograph. Nevertheless, the responsibility for assigning the period of validity shall be with the manufacturer.

**Added Substances.** An official substance, as distinguished from an official preparation, contains no added substances except when specifically permitted in the individual monograph. Unless otherwise specified in the individual monograph, or elsewhere in the General Notices, suitable substances may be added to an official preparation to enhance its stability, usefulness or elegance, or to facilitate its preparation. Such auxiliary substances shall be harmless in the amounts used, shall not exceed the minimum quantity required to provide their intended effect, shall not impair the therapeutic efficacy or the bioavailability or safety of the preparation and shall not interfere with the tests and assays prescribed for determining compliance with the official standards. Particular care should be taken to ensure that such substances are free from harmful organisms. The freedom to the manufacturers to add auxiliary substances imposes on them the responsibility of satisfying the licensing authorities on the purpose of the addition and the innocuity of such substances.

**Alternative Methods.** The tests and assays described are the official methods upon which the standards of the Pharmacopoeia are based. Alternative methods of analysis may be used for control purposes, provided that the methods used are shown to give results of equivalent accuracy and enable an unequivocal decision to be made as to whether compliance with the standards of the monographs would be achieved if the official methods were used. Automated procedures utilising the same basic chemistry as the test procedures given in the monograph may also be used to determine compliance. Such alternative or automated procedures must be validated.

In the event of doubt or dispute, the methods of analysis of the Pharmacopoeia are alone authoritative and only the result obtained by the procedure given in this Pharmacopoeia is conclusive.

## Meanings of Terms

**Alcohol.** The term “alcohol” without qualification means ethanol (95 per cent). Other dilutions of ethanol are indicated by the term “ethanol” or “alcohol” followed by a statement of the percentage by volume of ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) required.

**Desiccator.** A tightly-closed container of suitable size and design that maintains an atmosphere of low moisture content by means of silica gel or phosphorus pentoxide or other suitable desiccant.

**Drying and ignition to constant weight.** Two consecutive weighings after the drying or igniting operations do not differ by more than 0.5 mg, the second weighing following an additional period of drying or of ignition respectively appropriate to the nature and quantity of the residue.

**Ethanol.** The term “ethanol” without qualification means anhydrous ethanol or absolute alcohol.

**Filtration.** Unless otherwise stated, filtration is the passing of a liquid through a suitable filter paper or equivalent device until the filtrate is clear.

**Freshly prepared.** Made not more than 24 hours before it is issued for use.

**Label.** Any printed packing material, including package inserts that provide information on the article.

**Negligible.** A quantity not exceeding 0.50 mg.

**Solution.** Where the name of the solvent is not stated, “solution” implies a solution in water. The water used complies with the requirements of the monograph on Purified Water. The term ‘distilled water’ indicates Purified Water prepared by distillation.

**Temperature.** The symbol ° used without qualification indicates the use of the Celsius thermometric scale.

**Water.** If the term is used without qualification it means Purified Water of the Pharmacopoeia. The term ‘distilled water’ indicates Purified Water prepared by distillation.

**Water-bath.** A bath of boiling water unless water at another temperature is indicated. Other methods of heating may be used provided the required temperature is approximately maintained but not exceeded.

## Provisions Applicable To Monographs and Test Methods

**Expression of Contents.** Where the content of a substance is defined, the expression “per cent” is used according to circumstances with one of two meanings:

- per cent w/w (percentage, weight in weight) expressing the number of grams of substance in 100 grams of final product,

- per cent v/v (percentage, volume in volume) expressing the number of millilitres of substance in 100 millilitres of final product.

The expression “parts per million” refers to the weight in weight, unless otherwise stated.

Where the content of a substance is expressed in terms of the chemical formula for that substance an upper limit exceeding 100 per cent may be stated. Such an upper limit applies to the result of the assay calculated in terms of the equivalent content of the specified chemical formula. For example, the statement ‘contains not less than 99.0 per cent and not more than 101.0 per cent of C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>’ implies that the result of the assay is not less than 99.0 per cent and not more than 101.0 per cent, calculated in terms of the equivalent content of C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

Where the result of an assay or test is required to be calculated with reference to the dried, anhydrous, ignited substance, or the substance free from solvent, the determination of loss on drying, water content, loss on ignition, content of the specified solvent, respectively is carried out by the method prescribed in the relevant test in the monograph.

**Expression of Concentrations.** The following expressions in addition to the ones given under Expression of Content are also used:

- per cent w/v (percentage, weight in volume) expressing the number of grams of substance in 100 millilitres of product
- per cent v/w (percentage, volume in weight) expressing the number of millilitres of substance in 100 grams of product.

Usually, the strength of solutions of solids in liquids is expressed as percentage weight in volume, of liquids in liquids as percentage volume in volume, of solids in semi-solid bases (e.g. creams) and of gases in liquids as percentage weight in weight.

When the concentration of a solution is expressed as parts of dissolved substance in parts of solution, it means parts by weight (g) of a solid in parts by volume (ml) of the final solution; as parts by weight (g) of a gas in parts by weight (g) of the final solution.

When the concentration of a solution is expressed in molarity designated by the symbol M preceded by a number, it denotes the number of moles of the stated solute contained in sufficient Purified Water (unless otherwise stated) to produce 1 litre of solution.

**Abbreviated Statements.** Incomplete sentences are employed in parts of the monographs for directness and brevity (for example, Iodine Value. Not more than .....; Relative Density, .....to.....) Where the tests are abbreviated, it is to be understood that the test method referred to in brackets

provides the method to be followed and that the values specified are the applicable limits.

**Weights and Measures.** The metric system of weights and measures is employed in the Pharmacopoeia. All measures are required to be graduated at 25° and all measurements in tests and assays, unless otherwise stated, are to be made at that temperature. Graduated glass apparatus used in analytical operations shall comply with the requirements stated in Chapter 2.1.6

## Monographs

### General Monographs

General monographs on dosage forms include requirements of general application and apply to all preparations within the scope of the Introduction section of the general monograph, except where a preamble limits the application. The requirements are not necessarily comprehensive for a given specific preparation; additional requirements may sometimes be given in the individual monograph for it.

**Production.** Statements given under the heading Production relate to particular aspects of the manufacturing process and are not necessarily comprehensive. However, they are mandatory instructions to manufacturers. They may relate, for example, to source materials, to the manufacturing process and its validation and control, to any in-process testing that is to be carried out by the manufacturer on the final product either on selected batches or on each batch prior to release. All this cannot be verified on a sample of the final product by an independent analyst. It is for the licensing authority to verify that the instructions have been followed.

The absence of a section on Production does not imply that attention to features such as those given above is not required. An article described in a monograph of the Pharmacopoeia is to be manufactured in accordance with the principles of good manufacturing practice and in accordance with the requirements of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The general principles applicable to the manufacture and quality assurance of drugs and preparations meant for human use apply equally to veterinary products as well.

**Manufacture of Drug Products.** The opening definitive statement in certain monographs for drug products is given in terms of the active ingredient(s) only. Any ingredient(s) other than those included in the statement, must comply with the general notice on Excipients and the product must conform to the Pharmacopoeial requirements.

Official preparations are prepared only from ingredients that comply with the requirements of the pharmacopoeial monographs for those individual ingredients for which monographs are provided.

**Excipients.** Any substance added in preparing an official preparation shall be innocuous, shall have no adverse influence in the therapeutic efficacy of the active ingredients and shall not interfere with the tests and assays of the Pharmacopoeia. Care should be taken to ensure that such substances are free from harmful organisms.

### Individual Monographs

Drug products that are the subject of an individual monograph are also required to comply with the tests given in the general monographs.

**Titles.** The main title for a drug substance is the International Non-proprietary Name (INN) approved by the World Health Organization. Subsidiary names and synonyms have also been given in some cases; where included, they have the same significance as the main title.

The main titles of drug products are the ones commonly recognised in practice. Synonyms drawn from the full non-proprietary name of the active ingredient or ingredients have also been given. Where, however, a product contains one or the other of different salts of an active molecule, the main title is based on the full name of the active ingredient. For example, Chloroquine Phosphate Tablets and Chloroquine Sulphate Tablets.

**Chemical Formulae.** When the chemical structure of an official substance is known or generally accepted, the graphic and molecular formulae are normally given at the beginning of the monograph for information. This information refers to the chemically pure substance and is not to be regarded as an indication of the purity of the official material. Elsewhere, in statement of purity and strength and in descriptions of processes of assay, it will be evident from the context that the formulae denote the chemically pure substances.

Where the absolute stereochemical configuration is specified, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) *R/S* and *E/Z* systems of designation have been used. If the substance is an enantiomer of unknown absolute stereochemistry, the sign of the optical rotation, as determined in the solvent and under the conditions specified in the monograph, has been attached to the systematic name. An indication of sign of rotation has also been given where this is incorporated in a trivial name that appears on an IUPAC preferred list.

**Atomic and Molecular Weights.** The atomic weight or molecular weight is shown, and when appropriate at the top right hand corner of the monograph. The atomic and molecular weights and graphic formulae do not constitute analytical standards for the substances described.

**Definition.** The opening statement of a monograph is one that constitutes an official definition of the substance, preparation or other article that is the subject of the

monograph. In certain monographs for pharmaceutical preparations the statement is given in terms of the principal ingredient(s).

In monographs on vegetable drugs, the definition indicates whether the subject of the monograph is, for example, the whole drug or the drug in powdered form.

Certain pharmaceutical substances and other articles are defined by reference to a particular method of manufacture. A statement that a substance or article is prepared or obtained by a certain method constitutes part of the official definition and implies that other methods are not permitted. A statement that a substance *may* be prepared or obtained by a certain method, however, indicates that this is one possible method and does not imply that other methods are not permissible.

**Statement of content.** The limits of content stated are those determined by the method described under Assay.

**Category.** The statement of category is provided for information and is indicative of the medical or pharmaceutical basis for recognition in the Pharmacopoeia. It generally represents an application of the best known pharmacological action of the article or of its active ingredient. In the case of pharmaceutical aids it may indicate the more common usage of the article. The statement is not intended to limit in any way the choice or use of the article nor to indicate that it has no other activity or use.

**Dose.** Doses mentioned in the Pharmacopoeia are intended merely for general guidance and represent, unless otherwise stated, the average range of quantities which are generally regarded as suitable for adults when administered by mouth. They are not to be regarded as binding upon the prescribers. The medical practitioner will exercise his own judgment and act on his own responsibility in respect of the amount of any therapeutic agent he may prescribe or administer or the frequency of its administration. If it is usual to administer a drug by a method other than by mouth, the single dose suitable for that method of administration is mentioned. In the case of some preparations notes have been given below the statement of doses to show the approximate quantities of active ingredients contained in the maximal doses as information for the prescriber.

**Usual Strength.** The statement on the usual strength(s) of a preparation given in the individual monograph indicates the strength(s) usually marketed for information of the pharmacist and the medical practitioner. It does not imply that a strength other than the one(s) mentioned in the individual monograph meeting all the prescribed requirements cannot be manufactured and marketed with the approval of the appropriate authority.

**Description.** The statements under the heading Description are not to be interpreted in a strict sense and are not to be regarded as official requirements.

**Solubility.** Statements on solubility are given in Chapter 2.4.26 and are intended as information on the approximate solubility at a temperature between 15° and 30°, unless otherwise stated, and are not to be considered as official requirements. However, a test for solubility stated in a monograph constitutes part of the standards for the substance that is the subject of that monograph.

#### **Test Methods**

References to general methods of testing are indicated by test method numbers in brackets immediately after the heading of the test or at the end of the text.

**Identification.** The tests given under the heading Identification are not necessarily sufficient to establish absolute proof of identity. They provide a means of verifying that the identity of the material under examination is in accordance with the label on the container.

In certain monographs alternative series of identification tests are given; compliance with either one or the other set of tests is adequate to verify the identity of the article.

When tests for infrared absorption are applied to material extracted from formulated preparations, strict concordance with the specified reference spectrum may not always be possible, but nevertheless a close resemblance between the spectrum of the extracted material and the specified reference spectrum should be achieved.

#### **Tests and Assays**

The tests and assays are the official methods upon which the standards of the Pharmacopoeia depend. The requirements are not framed to take into account all possible impurities. It is not to be presumed, for example, that an impurity that is not detectable by means of the prescribed tests is tolerated. Material found to contain such an impurity is not of pharmacopoeial quality if the nature or amount of the impurity found is incompatible with good pharmaceutical practice.

Pharmacopoeial methods and limits should be used merely as compliance requirements and not as requirements to guarantee total quality assurance. Tests and assays are prescribed for the minimum sample available on which the attributes of the article should be measured. Assurance of quality must be ensured by the manufacturer by the use of statistically valid sampling and testing programmes.

**Tests.** Unless otherwise stated, the assays and tests are carried out at a temperature between 20° and 30°.

Where it is directed that an analytical operation is to be carried out 'in subdued light', precautions should be taken to avoid exposure to direct sunlight or other strong light. Where a procedure is directed to be performed 'protected from light' precautions should be taken to exclude actinic light by the

use of low-actinic glassware, working in a dark room or similar procedures.

For preparations other than those of fixed strength, the quantity to be taken for a test or an assay is usually expressed in terms of the active ingredient. This means that the quantity of the active ingredient expected to be present and the quantity of the preparation to be taken are calculated from the strength stated on the label.

**Other Tests.** In the monographs on dosage forms and certain preparations, under the sub-heading 'Other tests' it is stated that the article complies with the tests stated under the general monograph of the relevant dosage form or preparation. Details of such tests are provided in the general monographs.

**Limits.** The limits given are based on data obtained in normal analytical practice. They take into account normal analytical errors, of acceptable variations in manufacture and of deterioration to an extent that is acceptable. No further tolerances are to be applied to the limits for determining whether or not the article under examination complies with the requirements of the monograph.

**Quantities.** Unless otherwise stated, the quantities to be taken for assays, limit tests and other tests are of the substance under examination.

In tests with numerical limits and assays, the quantity stated to be taken for testing is approximate. The amount actually used, which may deviate by not more than 10 per cent from that stated, is accurately weighed or measured and the result of analysis is calculated from this exact quantity. In tests where the limit is not numerical but usually depends upon comparison with the behaviour of a reference in the same conditions, the stated quantity is taken for testing. Reagents are used in the prescribed amounts.

Quantities are weighed or measured with an accuracy commensurate with the indicated degree of precision. For weighings, the precision is plus or minus 5 units after the last figure stated. For example, 0.25 g is to be interpreted as 0.245 g to 0.255 g. For the measurement of volumes, if the figure after the decimal point is a zero or ends in a zero, e.g. 10.0 ml or 0.50 ml, the volume is measured using a pipette, a volumetric flask or a burette, as appropriate; in other cases, a graduated measuring cylinder or a graduated pipette may be used. Volumes stated in microlitres are measured using a micropipette or microsyringe.

The term 'transfer' is used generally to indicate a quantitative operation.

**Apparatus.** Measuring and weighing devices and other apparatus are described in the chapter entitled 'Apparatus for Tests and Assays'. A specification for a definite size or type of container or apparatus in a test or assay is given merely as a recommendation.

Unless otherwise stated, comparative tests are carried out using identical tubes of colourless, transparent, neutral glass with a flat base, commonly known as Nessler cylinders.

**Reagents and Solutions.** The reagents required for the tests and assays of the Pharmacopoeia are defined in the various chapters showing their nature, degree of purity and the strengths of the solutions to be made from them. The requirements set out are not intended to imply that the materials are suitable for use in medicine; reagents not covered by monographs in the pharmacopoeia shall not be claimed to be of IP quality.

The term 'analytical reagent grade of commerce' implies that the chemical is of a high degree of purity wherein the limits of various impurities are known. Where it is directed to use a 'general laboratory reagent grade of commerce' it is intended that a chemically pure grade material, not necessarily required to be tested for limiting or absence of certain impurities, is to be used.

**Indicators.** Where the use of an indicator solution is mentioned in an assay or test, approximately 0.1 ml of the solution shall be added, unless otherwise directed.

**Reference Substances.** Certain monographs require the use of a chemical reference substance or a biological reference preparation or a reference spectrum. These are authentic specimens chosen and verified on the basis of their suitability for intended use as prescribed in the Pharmacopoeia and are not necessarily suitable in other circumstances.

IP Reference Substances, abbreviated to IPRS (and referred to as RS in the individual monographs) are issued by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC). They are the official standards to be used in cases of arbitration. Secondary Standards (Working Standards) may be used for routine analysis, provided they are standardized at regular intervals against the Reference Substances.

Biological Reference Substances, also abbreviated to IPRS and Standard Preparations of antibiotics are issued by agencies authorised by the IPC. They are standardized against the International Standards and Reference Preparations established by the World Health Organization (WHO). The potency of these preparations is expressed in International Units.

Reference spectra are published by the IPC and they are accompanied by information concerning the conditions used for sample preparation and recording of the spectra.

**Test Animals.** Unless otherwise directed, animals used in a test or an assay shall be healthy and are drawn from a uniform stock, and have not previously been treated with any material that will interfere with the test or the assay.

**Calculation of Results.** In determining compliance with a numerical limit in assay or test, the result should be calculated

to one decimal place more than the significant figures stated and then rounded up or down as follows: if the last figure calculated is 5 to 9, the preceding figure is increased by 1; if it is 4 or less, the preceding figure is left unchanged.

**Storage.** Statements under the side-heading Storage constitute non-mandatory advice. The articles of the Pharmacopoeia are to be stored under conditions that prevent contamination and, as far as possible, deterioration. Precautions that should be taken in relation to the effects of the atmosphere, moisture, heat and light are indicated, where appropriate, in the individual monograph.

Specific directions are given in some monographs with respect to the temperatures at which Pharmacopoeial articles should be stored, where it is considered that usage at a lower or higher temperature may produce undesirable results. The storage conditions are defined by the following terms:

- Store in a dry, well-ventilated place at a temperature not exceeding 30°
- Store in a refrigerator (2° to 8°). Do not freeze
- Store in a freezer (-2° to -18°)
- Store in a deep freezer (Below -18°)

Storage conditions not related to temperature are indicated in the following terms:

- Store protected from light
- Store protected from light and moisture

Where no specific storage directions or limitations are given in the monograph or by the manufacturer, it is to be understood that the storage conditions include protection from moisture, freezing and excessive heat (any temperature above 40°).

**Storage Containers.** The requirements, guidance and information on containers for pharmaceutical use are given in the chapter entitled Containers (6.1)

In general, an article should be packed in a well-closed container i.e. one that protects the contents from contamination by extraneous solids, liquids or vapours and from loss of the article under normal conditions of handling and storage.

Where, additionally, loss or deterioration of the article from effervescence, deliquescence or evaporation under normal conditions of storage is likely, the container must be capable of being tightly closed, and re-closed after use.

In certain cases, special requirements of pack have been indicated in some monographs under Storage, using expressions that have been defined in chapter 6.1.

**Labelling.** The labelling of drugs and pharmaceuticals is governed by the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The statements that are given in the monographs under the side-heading 'Labelling' are not comprehensive. Only those that are necessary to demonstrate compliance or otherwise with the monograph have been given and they are mandatory. For example, in the monograph on Betamethasone Sodium Tablets the labelling statement is "The label states the strength in terms of the equivalent amount of betamethasone". Any other statements are included as recommendations.