



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

ANDA 78-775

Matrix Laboratories Inc.
U.S. Agent for: Matrix Laboratories Limited
Attention: Keith Giunta
76 South Orange Avenue, Suite 301
South Orange, NJ 07079

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) dated December 27, 2006, submitted pursuant to section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), for Stavudine Capsules USP, 30 mg and 40 mg.

Reference is also made to your amendments dated February 26, March 6, and March 9, 2007.

This ANDA was reviewed according to the expedited review provisions under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

We have completed the review of this ANDA, and based upon the information you have presented to date we have concluded that the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted labeling. However, we are unable to grant final approval to your ANDA at this time because of the patent issue noted below. Therefore, the ANDA is **tentatively approved**. This determination is based upon information available to the agency at this time, (i.e., information in your ANDA and the status of current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs) of the facilities used in the manufacture and testing of the drug product). This determination is subject to change on the basis of new information that may come to our attention.

The reference listed drug (RLD) upon which you have based your ANDA, Zerit Capsules, 30 mg and 40 mg, of Bristol Myers Squibb Company Pharmaceutical Research Institute, is subject to a period of patent protection. As noted in the agency's publication titled Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations (the "Orange Book"), U.S. Patent No. 4,978,655 (the '655 patent) is scheduled to expire on December 24, 2008 (with pediatric exclusivity added). Your ANDA contains a paragraph III certification to the '655 patent under section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(III) of the Act stating that Matrix Laboratories Limited will not market Stavudine Capsules USP, 30 mg and 40 mg, under this ANDA prior to the expiration of the '655 patent. Therefore, final approval of your ANDA may not be made effective pursuant to section 505(j)(5)(B)(ii) of the Act until the patent has expired, currently, December 24, 2008.

To reactivate your ANDA prior to final approval, please submit a "MINOR AMENDMENT - FINAL APPROVAL REQUESTED" 90 days prior to the date you believe that your ANDA will be eligible for final approval. This amendment should provide the legal/regulatory basis for your request for final approval and should include a copy of a court decision, or a settlement or licensing agreement, as appropriate. It should also identify changes, if any, in the conditions under which the ANDA was tentatively approved, i.e., updated information such as final-printed labeling, chemistry, manufacturing, and controls data as appropriate. This amendment should be submitted even if none of these changes were made, and it should be designated clearly in your cover letter as a MINOR AMENDMENT - FINAL APPROVAL REQUESTED.

We note your commitment to have an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry in place prior to this ANDA receiving full approval.

In addition to the amendment requested above, the agency may request at any time prior to the date of final approval that you submit an additional amendment containing the requested information. Failure to submit either or, if requested, both amendments may result in rescission of the tentative approval status of your ANDA, or may result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

Any significant changes in the conditions outlined in this ANDA as well as changes in the status of the manufacturing and testing facilities' compliance with current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs) are subject to agency review before final approval of the application will be made. Such changes should

be categorized as representing either "major" or "minor" changes, and they will be reviewed according to OGD policy in effect at the time of receipt. The submission of multiple amendments prior to final approval may also result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

This drug product may not be marketed in the United States without final agency approval under section 505 of the Act. The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of this drug product before the final approval date is prohibited under section 501 of the Act. Also, until the agency issues the final approval letter, this drug product will not be deemed approved for marketing under section 505 of the Act, and will not be listed in the "Orange Book." Should you believe that there are grounds for issuing the final approval letter prior to December 24, 2008, you should amend your ANDA accordingly.

For further information on the status of this ANDA or upon submitting an amendment to the ANDA, please contact Ted Palat, Project Manager, at 301-827-5849.

Sincerely yours,

{see appended electronic signature page}

Gary Buehler
Director
Office of Generic Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

**This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and
this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.**

/s/

Robert L. West
4/23/2007 04:14:36 PM
for Gary Buehler