



Our STN: BL 125083/0

JUN 04 2004

Hoffmann-La Roche, Incorporated
Attention: Karen Song, Pharm.D.
Program Manager, Drug Regulatory Affairs
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 02371

Dear Dr. Song:

We have approved your biologics license application for Peginterferon alfa-2a co-packaged with Ribavirin, USP effective this date. You are hereby authorized to introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, under your existing Department of Health and Human Services U.S. License No. 0136, a combination package containing both Peginterferon alfa-2a and Ribavirin, USP. Peginterferon alfa-2a will be manufactured and labeled as licensed under the Public Health Service Act (our STN BL 103964). Ribavirin, USP will be manufactured and labeled as approved under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (our NDA 21-511).

Under this authorization, you are approved to co-package Peginterferon alfa-2a and Ribavirin, USP at your facility in Nutley, NJ. You may label the co-package product with the proprietary name PEGASYS® COPEGUS® Combination Pack. PEGASYS will be marketed in 180 µg/0.5mL prefilled syringes co-packaged with 800 mg COPEGUS® (112 tablets) or 1000 mg COPEGUS® (140 tablets) or 1200 mg COPEGUS® (168 tablets).

The expiration date for the combination package shall be dependent on the shortest expiration date of any component.

You currently are not required to submit samples of future lots of Peginterferon alfa-2a to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) for release by the Director, CDER, under 21 CFR 610.2. We will continue to monitor compliance with 21 CFR 610.1 requiring completion of tests for conformity with standards applicable to each product prior to release of each lot.

You must submit adverse experience reports related to the PEGASYS® COPEGUS® Combination Pack under the adverse experience reporting requirements for licensed biological products (21 CFR 600.80). You should submit post-marketing adverse experience reports to the Central Document Room, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5901-B Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD 20705-1266. Prominently identify all adverse experience reports as described in 21 CFR 600.80. Identify BL 125083 as the application number in block G.5 of Form FDA 3500A and list PEGASYS® COPEGUS® Combination Pack as the suspect product name. Also cite BL 103964 for Peginterferon alfa-2a and NDA 21-511 for ribavirin in block B.5 for reference purposes.

You must submit distribution reports under the distribution reporting requirements for licensed biological products (21 CFR 600.81). Distribution reports for PEGASYS® COPEGUS® Combination Pack should reference BL 125083. You should submit distribution reports to CBER Document Control Center, Attn: Office of Therapeutics Research and Review, Suite 200N (HFM-99), 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-1448.

You must submit reports of biological product deviation under 21 CFR 600.14. Reports related to PEGASYS® COPEGUS® Combination Pack should reference BL 125083. You should promptly identify and investigate all manufacturing deviations, including those associated with processing, testing, packing, labeling, storage, holding and distribution. If the deviation involves a distributed product, may affect the safety, purity, or potency of the product, and meets the other criteria in the regulation, you must submit a report on Form FDA-3486 to the Division of Compliance Risk Management and Surveillance (HFD-330), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Please submit all final printed labeling at the time of use and include implementation information on FDA Form 356h. Please provide a PDF-format electronic copy as well as original paper copies (ten for circulars and five for other labels). In addition, you may wish to submit draft copies of the proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling with a cover letter requesting advisory comments to the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising and Communication (HFD-42), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane/Room 8B45, Rockville, MD 20857. Final printed advertising and promotional labeling should be submitted at the time of initial dissemination, accompanied by a FDA Form 2253.

All promotional claims must be consistent with and not contrary to approved labeling. You should not make a comparative promotional claim or claim of superiority over other products unless you have substantial evidence to support that claim.

The regulatory responsibility for review and continuing oversight for this product transferred from the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research effective June 30, 2003. For further information about the transfer, please see <http://www.fda.gov/cder/biologics/default.htm>. Until further notice, however, all correspondence, except as provided elsewhere in this letter, should continue to be addressed to:

CBER Document Control Center
Attn: Office of Therapeutics Research and Review
Suite 200N (HFM-99)
1401 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-1448

Sincerely,

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Karen D. Weiss, M.D.
Director
Office of Drug Evaluation VI
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research