DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20993

ANDA 205895

TENTATIVE APPROVAL

Gordon Johnston Regulatory Consultants LLC
U.S. Agent for Alkem Laboratories Limited
3631 Martins Dairy Circle
Olney, MD 20832
Attention: Gordon Johnston

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) dated June 29, 2013, submitted pursuant to section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), for Dronedarone Tablets, 400 mg.

Reference is also made to the complete response letter issued by this office on June 18, 2014, and to your amendments dated June 19, September 16, November 26, December 9, and December 21, 2015.

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 practice (cGMP) at the facilities used in the manufacturing and testing of the drug product) and is therefore subject to change on the basis of new information that may come to our attention. This letter does not address issues related to the 180-day exclusivity provisions under section 505(j)(5)(B)(iv) of the FD&C Act.

The reference listed drug (RLD) upon which you have based your ANDA, Multaq Tablets, 400 mg of Sanofi-Aventis U.S., is subject to periods of patent protection. The following patents and expiration dates are currently listed in the agency's publication titled Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations (the "Orange Book"):

U.S. Patent Number	Expiration Date
5,223,510 (the '510 patent)	July 26, 2016
7,323,493 (the '493 patent)	June 19, 2018
8,318,800 (the '800 patent)	June 19, 2018
8,410,167 (the '167 patent)	April 16, 2029
8,602,215 (the '215 patent)	June 30, 2031
9,107,900 (the '900 patent)	April 16, 2029

With respect to the ‘510 patent, your ANDA contains a paragraph III certification under section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(III) of the FD&C Act stating that Alkem Laboratories Limited (Alkem) will not market Dronedarone Tablets, 400 mg, prior to the expiration of the ‘510 patent. Therefore, final approval of your ANDA may not be made effective pursuant to section 505(j)(5)(B)(ii) of the FD&C Act until the ‘510 patent has expired, currently, July 26, 2016.

With respect to the ‘493, ‘800, ‘167, ‘215, and ‘900 patents[1], your ANDA contains paragraph IV certifications to each of the patents under section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the FD&C Act stating that the patents are invalid, unenforceable, or will not be infringed by your manufacture, use, or sale of Dronedarone Tablets, 400 mg, under this ANDA. You have notified the agency that Alkem complied with the requirements of section 505(j)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act, and litigation for infringement of the '493, '800, and '167 patents was brought against Alkem within the statutory 45-day period in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware [Sanofi and Sanofi-Aventis U.S., LLC. v. Alkem Laboratories Ltd. and Ascend Laboratories, LLC., Civil Action No. 1:14-cv-00292] and in the United States District Court for the District of Northern Illinois [Sanofi and Sanofi-Aventis U.S., LLC. v. Alkem Laboratories Ltd. and Ascend Laboratories, LLC., Civil Action No 14-cv-1957]. You have also notified the agency that the case in the United States District Court for the District of Northern Illinois was dismissed.

Therefore, final approval cannot be granted until:

1. a. the expiration of the 7½-year period provided for in sections 505(j)(5)(B)(iii) and 505(j)(5)(F)(ii) of the FD&C Act, or

   b. the date the court decides[2] that the ‘493, ‘800, and ‘167 patents are invalid or not infringed (see sections 505(j)(5)(B)(iii)(I), (II), and (III) of the FD&C Act), or

   c. the ‘510, ‘493, ‘800, and ‘167 patents have expired, and

2. The agency is assured there is no new information that would affect whether final approval should be granted.

Please note that if FDA requires a Risk Evaluation & Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for a listed drug, an ANDA citing that listed drug also will be required to have a REMS. See section 505-1(i) of the FD&C Act.

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

[1] The agency notes that the ‘215 and ‘900 patents were submitted to the agency after submission of your ANDA. Litigation, if any, with respect to these patents would not create a statutory stay of approval.

[2] This decision may be either a decision of the district court or the court of appeals, whichever court is the first to decide that the patents are invalid or not infringed.

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.

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' cGMPs are subject to agency review before final approval of the ANDA 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.

The Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 (GDUFA) (Public Law 112-144, Title III) established certain provisions with respect to self-identification of facilities and payment of annual facility fees. Your ANDA identifies at least one facility that is subject to the self-identification requirement and payment of an annual facility fee. Self-identification must occur by June 1 of each year for the next fiscal year. Facility fees must be paid each year by the date specified in the Federal Register notice announcing facility fee amounts. All finished dosage forms (FDFs) or active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) manufactured in a facility that has not met its obligations to self-identify or to pay fees when they are due will be deemed misbranded. This means that it will be a violation of federal law to ship these products in interstate commerce or to import them into the United States. Such violations can result in prosecution of those responsible, injunctions, or seizures of misbranded products. Products misbranded because of failure to self-identify or pay facility fees are subject to being denied entry into the United States.

In addition, we note that GDUFA requires that certain non-manufacturing sites and organizations listed in generic drug submissions comply with the self-identification requirement. The failure of any facility, site, or organization to comply with its obligation to self-identify and/or to pay fees when due may raise significant concerns about that site or organization and is a factor that may increase the likelihood of a site inspection prior to approval. FDA does not expect to give priority to completion of inspections that are required simply because facilities, sites, or organizations fail to comply with the law requiring self-identification or fee payment.

Additionally, we note that the failure of any facility referenced in the application to self-identify and pay applicable fees means that FDA will not consider the GDUFA application review goal dates to apply to that application.

For further information on the status of this ANDA, or prior to submitting additional amendments, please contact Joe Shin, Regulatory Project Manager, at (240) 402-6259.

Sincerely yours,

Carol A. Holquist -S

Digitally signed by Carol A. Holquist -S
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Date: 2015.12.31 13:27:10 -05'00'

Carol A. Holquist, R.Ph.
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Regulatory Operations
Office of Generic Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research