



ANDA 203594

**ANDA APPROVAL**

Watson Laboratories, Inc.  
311 Bonnie Circle  
Corona, CA 92880  
Attention: Kelly Delgado  
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Dear Madam:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) submitted pursuant to section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), for Drospirenone, Ethinyl Estradiol, and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 3 mg/0.03 mg/0.451 mg and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 0.451 mg.

Reference is also made to the tentative approval letter issued by this office on May 28, 2015, and to your amendments dated August 14, October 14, November 12, and December 1, 2015; and February 16, 2016.

We have completed the review of this ANDA and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted labeling. **Accordingly the ANDA is approved**, effective on the date of this letter. The Office of Bioequivalence has determined your Drospirenone, Ethinyl Estradiol, and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 3 mg/0.03 mg/0.451 mg and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 0.451 mg to be bioequivalent and, therefore, therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Safyral Tablets of Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Bayer). Your dissolution testing should be incorporated into the stability and quality control program using the same method proposed in your ANDA.

The RLD upon which you have based your ANDA, Bayer's Safyral Tablets, 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>U.S. Patent Number</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
6,441,168 (the '168 patent)	April 17, 2020
6,958,326 (the '326 patent)	December 20, 2021
7,163,931 (the '931 patent)	March 3, 2022
8,617,597 (the '597 patent)	February 8, 2030

Your ANDA contains paragraph IV certifications to each of the patents<sup>1</sup> 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 Drospirenone, Ethinyl Estradiol, and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 3 mg/0.03 mg/0.451 mg and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 0.451 mg, under this ANDA. You have notified the agency that Watson Laboratories, Inc. (Watson) complied with the requirements of section 505(j)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act, and that litigation was initiated against Watson for infringement of the '168 patent within the statutory 45-day period in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware [Merck & CIE, Bayer Pharma AG and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. v. Watson Laboratories, Inc., and Actavis, Inc. Civil Action No. 13-cv-0978]. You have also notified the agency that the District Court determined the '168 patent to be valid and infringed in a Final Judgment issued on September 14, 2015. However, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit vacated the District Court Order in a mandate issued on July 29, 2016. In an Order issued on August 8, 2016, the District of Delaware vacated the Final Judgment dated September 14, 2015.

With respect to 180-day generic drug exclusivity, we note that Watson was the first ANDA applicant for Drospirenone, Ethinyl Estradiol, and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 3 mg/0.03 mg/0.451 mg and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 0.451 mg, to submit a substantially complete ANDA with a paragraph IV certification. Therefore, with this approval, Watson may be eligible for 180 days of generic drug exclusivity for Drospirenone, Ethinyl Estradiol, and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 3 mg/0.03 mg/0.451 mg and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 0.451 mg. This exclusivity, which is provided for under 505(j)(5)(B)(iv) of the FD&C Act, would begin to run from the date of the commercial marketing identified in section 505(j)(5)(B)(iv). The agency notes that Watson failed to obtain tentative approval of this ANDA within 30 months after the date of which the ANDA was filed. See section 505(j)(5)(D)(i)(IV) of the FD&C Act (forfeiture of exclusivity for failure to obtain tentative approval). The agency is not making a formal determination at this time of Watson's eligibility for 180-day generic drug exclusivity, however. It will do so only if a subsequent paragraph IV applicant becomes eligible for full approval (a) within 180 days after Watson begins commercial marketing of Drospirenone, Ethinyl Estradiol, and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 3 mg/0.03 mg/0.451 mg and Levomefolate Calcium Tablets, 0.451 mg, or (b) at any time prior to the expiration of the '168, '326, and '931 patents if Watson has not begun commercial marketing. Please submit correspondence to this ANDA informing the agency of the date commercial marketing begins.

Under section 506A of the FD&C Act, certain changes in the conditions described in this ANDA require an approved supplemental application before the change may be made.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> The agency notes that '597 patent was submitted to the agency after submission of your ANDA. Litigation, if any, with respect to this patent would not create a statutory stay of approval.

Postmarketing reporting requirements for this ANDA are set forth in 21 CFR 314.80-81 and 314.98. The Office of Generic Drugs should be advised of any change in the marketing status of this drug.

Promotional materials may be submitted to FDA for comment prior to publication or dissemination. Please note that these submissions are voluntary. If you desire comments on proposed launch promotional materials with respect to compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, we recommend you submit, in draft or mock-up form, two copies of both the promotional materials and package insert(s) directly to:

Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Office of Prescription Drug Promotion  
5901-B Ammendale Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705

We call your attention to 21 CFR 314.81(b)(3) which requires that all promotional materials be submitted to the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion with a completed Form FDA 2253 at the time of their initial use.

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.

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit, using the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm>, that is identical in content to the approved labeling (including the package insert, and any patient package insert and/or Medication Guide that may be required). Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry titled “SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As” at

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/DrugsGuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf>. The SPL will be accessible via publicly available labeling repositories.

Sincerely yours,

*{See appended electronic signature page}*

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



Carol  
Holquist

Digitally signed by Carol Holquist  
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