

ABSCHRIFT

INTERKANTONALE KONTROLLSTELLE FÜR HEILMITTEL
 OFFICE INTERCANTONAL DE CONTROLE DES MÉDICAMENTS
 UFFICIO INTERCANTONALE DI CONTROLLO DEI MEDICAMENTI

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Dr. A.B. Morrison
 Assistant Deputy Minister
 Health Protection Branch
 Department of National Health and
 Welfare

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Ihr Zeichen · votre réf.

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3000 Bern 9, Erlachstr. 8

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September 21, 1973

Exchange of technical and scientific Information on pharmaceutical products between "Office intercantonal de contrôle des médicaments (OICM), Berne - Switzerland and the Health Protection Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa - Canada.

Dear Dr. Morrison,

The Office intercantonal de contrôle des médicaments acknowledges with pleasure and satisfaction the cooperation that has existed with the Health Protection Branch in regard to problems of mutual concern associated with the manufacture, quality control, and distribution of pharmaceutical products, including official registration and analysis. Scientific and technical contacts established with your office have been of considerable value, and consultations with professional staff of your organization have proved most fruitful and rewarding.

Recognizing that through such cooperation the health and well-being of the citizens of our respective countries are more effectively safeguarded, I would agree with your proposing a reciprocal arrangement between our agencies. The arrangement would cover the following points:

1. The Office intercantonal de contrôle des médicaments endorses the principle of exchanging information with the Health Protection Branch relating to the manufacture, quality control and distribution of pharmaceutical products, including official registration and analysis.

2. All information provided by the Office intercantonal de contrôle des médicaments shall be based on Swiss regulations actually in force according to the provisions of the "Convention intercantonale sur le contrôle des médicaments". Amendments to the relevant documents shall be transmitted regularly to the Health Protection Branch. Supplementary information may be requested, where necessary, based on the legal provisions in Canada. Any information on a pharmaceutical plant necessitates the consent of the firm concerned.
3. If in the course of inspections or otherwise particular circumstances are found which cause a pharmaceutical product to be of imminent and serious danger to the public appropriate information shall be transmitted to the Health Protection Branch.
4. Joint visits to pharmaceutical plants in Switzerland may be arranged provided the manufacturers so consent. This will afford opportunities for discussing scientific and technical problems of mutual concern and comparing inspection and reporting techniques, for exchanging experiences, and for developing similar administrative practices and procedures.
5. At appropriate intervals, and by mutual agreement, inspectors and experts from the Office intercantonal de contrôle des médicaments and the Health Protection Branch shall meet to review the progress made through implementation of this information exchange.
6. The provision of information shall not extend to the disclosure of financial data, commercial transactions, trade secrets, or, insofar as they are not related to quality control of manufacture, data concerning technical "know-how", research information or data relating to personnel other than such as concerns their duties.

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7. Information shall be exchanged to the extent national legislation permits and be supplied in confidence for intra-agency use only.
8. Either agency may, at any time, propose amendments to, or termination of the arrangements for exchange of information.

Implementation of these provisions will, I am confident, improve the quality of pharmaceutical products marketed in our two countries and provide a permanent basis upon which we may plan, program and build, in partnership, better health for our two nations.

Sincerely yours
OFFICE INTERCANTONAL
sig.Dr. P. Fischer