



15 May 2014
EMA/CHMP/ICH/82260/2006

ICH guideline Q3C (R5) on impurities: guideline for residual solvents

Step 5

Transmission to CHMP	November 1996
Adoption by CHMP for release for consultation	November 1996
End of consultation (deadline for comments)	May 1997
Final adoption by CHMP	September 1997
Date for coming into effect	March 1998

Scope:

Residual solvents in drug substances, excipients, and in drug products are within the scope of this guideline. Therefore, testing should be performed for residual solvents when production or purification processes are known to result in the presence of such solvents. It is only necessary to test for solvents that are used or produced in the manufacture or purification of drug substances, excipients, or drug product. Although manufacturers may choose to test the drug product, a cumulative method may be used to calculate the residual solvent levels in the drug product from the levels in the ingredients used to produce the drug product. If the calculation results in a level equal to or below that recommended in this guideline, no testing of the drug product for residual solvents need be considered. If, however, the calculated level is above the recommended level, the drug product should be tested to ascertain whether the formulation process has reduced the relevant solvent level to within the acceptable amount. Drug product should also be tested if a solvent is used during its manufacture.

This guideline does not apply to potential new drug substances, excipients, or drug products used during the clinical research stages of development, nor does it apply to existing marketed drug products.

The guideline applies to all dosage forms and routes of administration. Higher levels of residual solvents may be acceptable in certain cases such as short term (30 days or less) or topical application. Justification for these levels should be made on a case by case basis.



See Appendix 2 for additional background information related to residual solvents.

Link to: [Quality guidelines](#)