

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No. 3 of 2017

Subsection 26BB(1), Therapeutic Goods Act 1989

OUTLINE

The *Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No.3 of 2017* (the Determination) is a determination made by the Minister under subsection 26BB(1) of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (the Act) and has the effect of specifying ingredients that may be contained in a medicine listed in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (the Register) under section 26A of the Act, and requirements in relation to the inclusion of those ingredients in such medicines.

The Determination is intended to succeed (i.e. revoke and replace) the previous Determination which specified ingredients and related requirements for such medicines – the *Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No. 2 of 2017*, which commenced on 21 April 2017 (referred to as the Previous Determination).

The Determination makes a number of changes to the Previous Determination. These include, for example, correcting a number of unintended errors, making a number of requirements relating to the use of particular ingredients clearer and introducing 4 new ingredients for use in listed medicines for the first time and the removal of 8 due to safety related matters.

The Determination includes references to a number of external documents. In each case, the intention is for the references to relate to those documents ‘as in force or existing from time to time’, unless a specific version of the relevant document is identified. The words ‘as in force or existing from time to time’ are included, as appropriate, throughout the Determination to make it clearer that this is the intention in relation to references to other documents.

Subsection 26BB(8) of the Act provides a contrary intention for subsection 14(2) of the *Legislation Act 2003* (the Legislation Act), by allowing a determination under section 26BB to make provision in relation to a matter by applying, adopting or incorporating any matter contained an instrument or other writing as in force or existing from time to time.

In accordance with paragraph 15J(2)(c) of the *Legislation Act 2003*, the documents referenced in this Determination are described below, together with information relating to how they may be accessed.

The Determination refers to the following New Zealand legislation:

the *Animal Products Act 1999* (New Zealand), available free on-line at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0093/latest/DLM33502.html>

the *Animal Welfare Act 1999* (New Zealand), available free on-line at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0142/latest/DLM49664.html>

The Determination also refers to the following documents that provide international standards for the safety and quality for ingredients for medicines. A fee is required for access to these documents. It is anticipated that a sponsor of a medicine included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and other interested persons in the medicines industry using this instrument would be in possession of these standards in order to manufacture the medicine or use the ingredients. Further, versions of these documents are available through a number of libraries allowing public access.

British Pharmacopoeia (BP) (as defined in the Act) available online at: <https://www.pharmacopoeia.com>

European Pharmacopoeia (EP) (as defined in the Act) available on-line at: <http://online.pheur.org>

United States Pharmacopeia – National Formulary (USP-NF) (as defined in the Act) available on-line at: <http://www.usp.org/usp-nf>

Food Chemicals Codex (FCC) published by the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention available on-line at <http://online.foodchemicalscodex.org>

The Determination commenced on the day after it was registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

BACKGROUND

The Act provides for the establishment and maintenance of a national system of controls for the quality, safety, efficacy and timely availability of therapeutic goods that are used in or exported from Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (the TGA), which is part of the Department of Health, is responsible for administering the Act.

One of the controls established by the Act is to require that medicines that are listed in the Register under section 26A of the Act (listed medicines) only include ingredients which have been evaluated for safety and quality, and that consideration has been given to whether any conditions should be attached to the use of the ingredient, so that safety and quality can be maintained. The Determination supports the achievement of this control, by providing for a list of ingredients which have been assessed or determined previously to be safe and providing for the requirements applying to particular ingredients when contained in a relevant medicine.

Prior to the making of the first determination under subsection 26BB(1) of the Act, the *Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No.1 of 2015* (the original Determination), ingredients were authorised for use in listed medicines generally through the list of ingredients in Schedule 4 to the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990, or through notices made by the Minister under subsection 9A(5) of the Act (Listing Notices).

The Determination, however, provides for a single, comprehensive list of ingredients permitted for use in listed medicines, along with requirements applying to the use of particular ingredients included in listed medicines.

The requirements imposed under the Determination principally relate to ensuring the quality and safety of the ingredient when used. Requirements may relate, for example, to:

- how the ingredient is to be used in the medicine, for example as a standard active, homoeopathic, or excipient ingredient;
- the method of ingestion or application, for example oral or topical use;
- the source of the ingredient, or the method of manufacture;
- appropriate limits on volume or concentration of the ingredient contained in the medicine; and
- the inclusion of relevant safety information on product labels, for example allergen advice, or advice about the use of the ingredient for susceptible members of the population such as small children and pregnant women.

The purpose of the Determination is to revoke and replace the Previous Determination with this Determination that includes new ingredients that will be available for use in listed medicines, and that also incorporates a number of other changes compared to the Previous Determination.

These changes include:

- the addition of 4 new ingredients that have been determined to be suitable for inclusion in listed medicines, along with associated requirements relating to their use in these products;
- changes to 55 existing ingredient entries, including for example:
 - making requirements for 7 ingredients less restrictive, such as broadening the use to allow oral use when previously only for topical use;
 - making requirements for 5 ingredients more restrictive, such as the inclusion of additional warning messages; and
 - making minor changes to make a number of entries clearer.
- the removal of 8 ingredients that have been determined not to be suitable for inclusion in listed medicines.

It is expected that updated section 26BB Determinations will be made on a quarterly basis. The need to make timely updates to the Determinations arises for a number of reasons, including to ensure that new ingredients requested by industry are made available for use in listed medicines as soon as possible after they have been assessed or determined to be safe.

Further, regular updates are necessary to provide industry with accurate and up-to-date information on restrictions for certain ingredients that reflect recent safety data, scientific naming conventions, changes to the Poison Standard (SUSMP), legislative developments for therapeutic goods, and to correct minor errors. As listed medicines are not prescribed by a doctor and are freely available, there is an imperative to ensure that section 26BB Determinations are accurate and routinely maintained, so as to provide clear requirements for industry about what ingredients can be safely used in listed medicines and, about what safety information needs to be provided to consumers on product labels to ensure the safe use of those products by the public.

CONSULTATION

Consultation on the policy of making a determination under section 26BB has occurred since late-2014 with key industry bodies, the Australian Self Medication Industry, Complementary Medicines Australia and Accord. This included consultations on the inclusions of permitted ingredients when the first section 26BB Determination commenced on 1 January 2016. Engagement with industry on changes required in previous section 26BB Determinations and this new Determination occurred in 2016 and 2017.

A regulatory impact statement is not required for the quarterly updates to the Determination as these updates are minor or machinery in nature. This exemption applies to the addition of permitted ingredients, correction of errors, clarification of requirements and ingredient names, changes to ingredient requirements or availability in order to reflect scheduling decisions contained in the Poisons Standard (SUSMP), or the outcomes of TGA safety evaluations where the regulatory impacts are minor or machinery in nature (Office of Best Practice Regulation Refs. 14416, 20999, and 21645).

The Determination is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the Legislation Act.

In relation to compatibility with human rights, it is considered that the Determination is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*, and a Statement of Compatibility setting that out in further detail is below.

STATEMENT OF COMPATIBILITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS FOR A LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT THAT DOES NOT RAISE ANY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011

Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No. 3 of 2017

This legislative instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

Overview of the Legislative Instrument

The *Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No.3 of 2017* (the Determination) is made by the Minister under subsection 26BB(1) of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (the Act). The Determination has the effect of specifying ingredients that may be contained in a medicine listed in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (the Register) under section 26A of the Act, and requirements in relation to the inclusion of those ingredients in such medicines. A person seeking to list a medicine in the Register under section 26A of the Act must certify, when doing so, that the medicine does not contain an ingredient that is not specified in the section 26BB Determination, and that none of the requirements specified in the section 26BB Determination in relation to the ingredients contained in the medicine have been contravened – paragraphs 26A(2)(ca) and (cb) of the Act refer.

If a person incorrectly certifies as to these matters, the Secretary may cancel, or suspend, their goods from the Register (paragraphs 30(1)(e) and 29D(1)(b) of the Act refer). Offences and civil penalty provisions may also apply if a person makes a false or misleading statement in, or in connection with, a certification of a matter under subsection 26A(2) of the Act (including in relation to permissible ingredients and related requirements).

The Determination revokes and replaces the *Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No. 2 of 2017* (which commenced on 21 April 2017), and incorporates a number of changes to the previous Determination. These include, for example, correcting a number of unintended errors, making a number of requirements relating to the use of particular ingredients clearer and introducing 5 new ingredients for use in listed medicines for the first time.

Human rights implications

This legislative instrument does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

Conclusion

This legislative instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.

Lyndall Soper, delegate of the Minister for Health