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The Legal Protection of Pharmaceutical Regulatory Data Pursuant to the Jordanian Law: A Comparative Study

Dr. Saad Abdelkarim Abughanm

Abstract

This study investigates the conditions which Regulatory Pharmaceutical Data (RD) must meet to be protected against unfair commercial use and disclosure. Such data is provided to the Jordanian Food and Drug Bureau (JFDA) by sponsors of new drug applications to prove the intoxicity, potency, and quality of their new drugs. This study establishes that the mere submission of RD to the JFDA does not justify legal protection. To qualify for protection RD must satisfy the following conditions: it must derive from lab tests and clinical studies; it must relate to a product containing a new chemical entity that has never been used or disclosed before in any form; it must be confidential and kept secret, unknown to, or easily accessible by people dealing with such data it it must be required and necessarily lead to approval of the associated drug; and must require a considerable effort to generate.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical data, conditions of protection, unfair competition.

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Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS"), Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Apr. 15, 1994, 1867 U.N.T.S. 154, Annex 1C.

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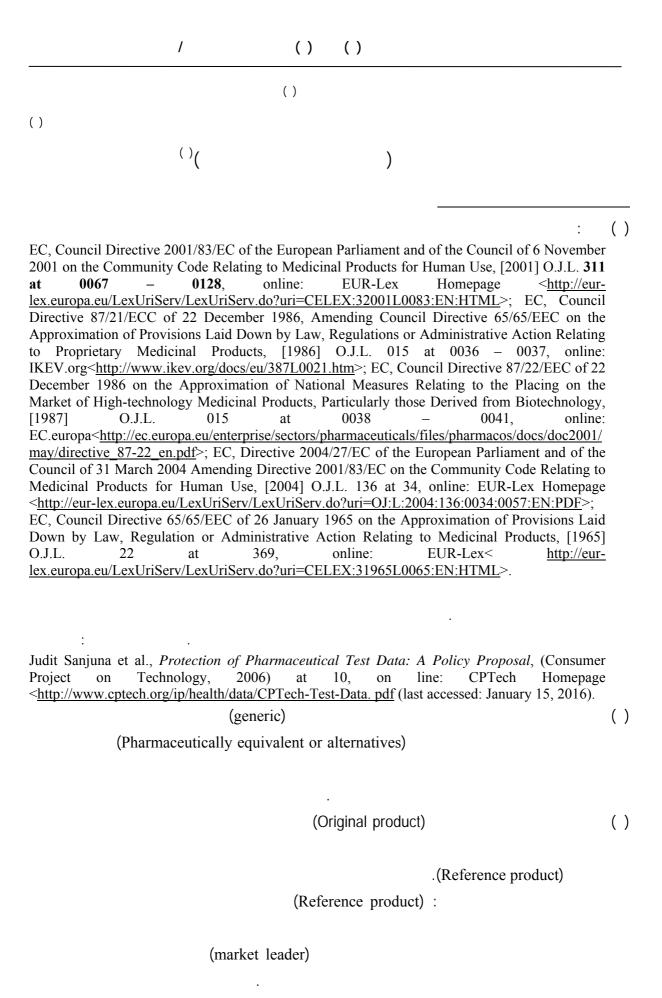
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if the period elapsed since the marketing date of the authorized product is:

(iii) less than six years and [the authorized drug] is marketed in the Member State for which the application is made; this period shall be extended to 10 years in the case of high-technology medicinal products [...]" Furthermore, a Member State may also extend this period to 10 years by a single decision covering all the products marketed on its territory where it considers this necessary in the interest of public health. Member States are at liberty not to apply the abovementioned six-year period beyond the date of expiry of a patent protecting the original product."

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If a Party requires, as a condition for approving the marketing of pharmaceutical or agricultural chemical products that utilize new chemical entities, the submission of undisclosed test or other data necessary to determine whether the use of such products is safe and effective, the Party shall protect against disclosure of the data of persons making such submissions, where the origination of such data involves considerable effort, except where the disclosure is necessary to protect the public or unless steps are taken to ensure that the data is protected against unfair commercial use.

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Each Party shall provide that for data subject to paragraph 5 that are submitted to the Party after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, no person other than the person that submitted them may, without the latter's permission, rely on such data in support of an application for product approval during a reasonable period of time after their submission. For this purpose, a reasonable period shall normally mean not less than five years from the date on which the Party granted approval to the person that produced the data for approval to market its product, taking account of the nature of the data and the person's efforts and expenditures in producing them. Subject to this provision, there shall be no limitation on any Party to implement abbreviated approval procedures for such products on the basis of bioequivalence and bioavailability studies.

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Bayer Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General), [1999] F.C.J. No. 826.

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"[t]rade secrets submitted to governments shall not be disclosed or used for the benefit of third parties"

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), *Suggestion by the United States for Achieving the Negotiating Objective*, GATT document MTN.GNG./NG11/W/14?Rev.1 of October 17, 1988, http://www.wto.org/gatt_docs/English/SULPDF/92030039.pdf(last accessed: January 15, 2016).

G. Acts contrary to honest commercial practices including protection of undisclosed information Article 28

In the course of ensuring effective protection against unfair competition as provided for in Article 10 bis of the Paris Convention –

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(b) Contracting parties, when requiring the publication or submission of test or other data, the origination of which involves a considerable effort, shall protect such efforts against unfair exploitation by competitors. The protection shall last for a reasonable time commensurate with such efforts, the nature of the data required, the expenditure involved in their preparation and shall take account of the availability of other forms of protection.

GATT, *Draft Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights*, GATT document MTN.GNG/NG11/W/68 of March 29, 1990 at 13,

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Members, when requiring, as a condition of approving the marketing of pharmaceutical or of agricultural chemical products which utilize new chemical entities, the submission of undisclosed test or other data, the origination of which involves a considerable effort, shall protect such data against unfair commercial use. In addition, Members shall protect such data against disclosure, except where necessary to protect the public, or unless steps are taken to ensure that the data are protected against unfair commercial use.

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The Marrakech Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ("WTO Agreement"), Annex 1C, Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS Agreement"), 33 ILM 81 (1994).

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Pursuant to Article 39.3 of *TRIPS*, each Party, when requiring, as a condition of approving the marketing of pharmaceutical or of agricultural chemical products that utilize new chemical entities, the submission of undisclosed test or other data, or *evidence of approval in another country*, the origination of which involves a considerable effort, *shall protect such information against unfair commercial use*. In addition, each Party shall protect such information against disclosure, except where necessary to protect the public, or unless steps are taken to ensure that the information is protected against unfair commercial use.

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"10. It is understood that protection for "new chemical entities" shall also include protection for new uses for old chemical entities for a period of three years".

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