

Central Administration of
Pharmaceutical products

General Administration of Stability



Notice to applicant

Technical requirements of the stability centers and units

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1- Organization and management organogram (For stability centers)

- a- Full-time director holds a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences / Bachelor of Pharmacy (PharmD), and must be Egyptian.
- b- Full-time physical and chemical analysis supervisor holds a diploma or master's degree in pharmaceutical/medicinal chemistry from faculty of Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences or holds a diploma or master's degree in analytical chemistry from faculty of Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences or from faculty of Sciences.
- c- Analysts hold a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences / Bachelor of Pharmacy (PharmD) or a bachelor of Science.
- d- Quality assurance manager holds a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences / Bachelor of Pharmacy (PharmD) provided that be independent and report directly to the stability center / unit director.
- e- In case of presence of microbiological testing laboratory:
Full-time microbiological analysis supervisor holds a diploma or master's degree in microbiology from faculty of Pharmacy / Pharmaceutical Sciences or from faculty of Science.

2- Equipment and other devices

A- General mandatory equipment and other devices

i. Stability cabinets / chambers

- a- There must be – as minimum - an accelerated stability cabinet/chamber and a long-term stability cabinet/chamber achieve the specified conditions limits for temperature and relative humidity.
- b- The cabinets should be equipped with an alarm system (audible sound or appropriate electronic system) automatically works when the cabinets conditions are out of the specified limits.
- c- The cabinets should be supplied with an alternative electric current source as electric generator or Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).
- d- There must be -as minimum - a calibrated external data logger in each stability cabinet/chamber to monitor and record the worst location for temperature and humidity.

ii. Physical and chemical laboratory equipment

The stability center / unit must have - as minimum - the following equipment needed in the stability testing of the products:

- High performance liquid chromatography apparatus connected to UPS, (at least one HPLC with PDA detector)
- 4-digits analytical balance (preferably a 5-digit balance), with standard test weights.
- Double beam spectrophotometer (connected with software for data retrieval)

- pH meter, with standard certified buffer solutions
- Karl fisher
- Oven or IR moisture analytical balance
- Sonicator
- Magnetic stirrer
- Vortex mixer
- Water bath
- Water distillator
- Refrigerator with external data logger
- Photostability cabinet
- Presence of fuming hoods for the use of hazardous chemicals.
- Glasswares

iii. Microbiological laboratory equipment

The microbiological laboratory is involved in:

- sterility testing;
- detection, isolation, enumeration and identification of microorganisms (bacteria, yeast and moulds)
- testing for bacterial endotoxins
- assay using microorganisms
- serological assays

The microbiological laboratory must have - as minimum – the following equipment:

- Hot air oven
- Bunsen burner
- Water bath or hot plate with magnetic stirrer
- Two autoclaves one for preparation & another for destruction
- 3 Incubator for bacteria, fungi and bio-indicator
(The incubators should be supplied with an alternative electric current source as electric generator or Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS))
- Thermometer
- Membrane filter set
- Auxiliary tools as (micropipette – cuvettes – loops – autoclavable glasses)
- Microscope
- pH meter
- Analytical balances
- Dynamically interlocked pass box (pass-through hatches (PTH)) for media entry to the LAF clean room
- Laminar Airflow (LAF) unit / Unidirectional Airflow (UDAF) unit
- Biosafety cabinet (at least class 2)
- Refrigerator with external data logger

- Mechanical freezer
- Source of purified or distilled water should be supplied

B-Specialized function – dependent equipment

- i.** For solid dosage forms stability studies:
 - Dissolution apparatus
 - Disintegration apparatus
 - Hardness tester
 - Friability tester
- ii.** For sterile dosage form stability studies:
 - Particulate matter counter
- iii.** For liquid and semisolid dosage forms stability studies:
 - Rotational viscometer

C-Requirements for equipment

- a- Equipment and stability cabinets / chambers should be regularly calibrated by accredited calibration laboratory (ISO 17025) in the scope of the calibration of equipment /cabinets or the official representative/agent of the equipment/cabinets, otherwise shall be investigated by General Administration of Stability, adequate records of such tests (calibration certificates) should be maintained.
- b- Records should be kept for the maintenance plan of equipment and the maintenance carried out containing history of any damage, malfunction, modification or repair
- c- Equipment / cabinets should be labelled, to indicate the status of calibration and the date when recalibration is due.
- d- The laboratory should establish, implement and maintain authorized, written SOPs at the relevant locations near instruments for the use, verification and calibration of equipment.
- e- Specific requirements should be established for some measuring equipment, forexample, but not limited to:
 - pH meters are verified with standard certified buffer solutions before use.
 - balances are to be checked daily using internal calibration and regularly using standard test weights.
- f- The microbiological testing of products should take place in a controlled environment, zones in which operations could be carried out as the following grades (see table (1))
- g- The qualification of cleanrooms:
 - The maximum time interval for requalification of grade A and B areas is 6 months.
 - The maximum time interval for requalification of grade C and D areas is 12 months.

Table (1)

Zone & Operation	Grade
Sample receipt, autoclave, media preparation before sterilization	Unclassified
Sterility testing — LAF/UDAF	Grade A
Sterility testing — background to LAF/UDAF	Grade B
Sterility testing — isolator (Optional)	Grade A
Sterility testing — background to isolator	Unclassified
Microbial limit test - LAF/UDAF	Grade A
Microbial limit test – background to LAF/UDAF	Grade C

3- Documentations & Records

Operation logbooks (apparatus, analyst and cabinet logbook) should be organized, inseparable (not lose or coiled), paginated, has unique identifier (coded/serial number) and containing the following data:

- For cabinet logbook: (cabinet type & its storage conditions - model name & number - name of product & its concentration - dosage form - batch number – manufacturing and expiry date - batch type - applicant name - manufacturer name - number of samples - date of samples entry - dates of samples withdrawal - name of operator).
- For analyst logbook: (name of analyst - name of product - names of active constituents and its concentration - dosage form - batch number - manufacturing and expiry date - type of study - steps that followed - standard details - calculations in details).
- For apparatus logbook: (apparatus name - model number - date of any operation - name of product - dosage form - batch number - type of study - name of analyst).

4- Data Integrity

- a- Date and time control shall be locked on computers connected with laboratory apparatus.
- b- No PDF Editor applications shall be present on laboratory apparatus.
- c- Chromatography equipment should have validated chromatography data systems with complete audit trail.

5- Outsourced activities and contracts

Outsourcing testing such as microbiological analysis or photostability studies, the stability center / unit set a written, legalized and signed contract with EDA licensed organizations for the type of tests required which clearly defines the subcontracted test