

Guidance 088 Determining Testing Patterns and Acceptance Criteria for Analytical Method Transfers

If an absolute or relative difference approach is to be employed, use the guidance in Table 1 as a starting point. In addition to Table 1, review the available validation and stability data for different lots. If the time-point to time point variability for the selected lot and/or other stability lots is greater than the guidance provided herein or the results presented in the validation, then the inter-laboratory acceptance criteria may be adjusted accordingly.

When setting acceptance criteria for counter ions and/or preservative content, less stringent acceptance criteria may be applied.

Table 1 provides suggested %RSD criteria to be used depending on the specification limits. Review historical and validation data where possible to confirm the method has the capability to achieve this level of precision. Adjust the %RSD if the validation and historical data support it and justify the criteria in the Transfer Plan.

If the same analytical procedure is used to determine assay and content uniformity, then the transfer plan should reflect that if the RL meets the criteria for assay, then the RL will also be qualified to perform Content Uniformity. If two separate methods are used, then both the assay method and Content Uniformity methods should be transferred. For Content Uniformity testing, the results should be evaluated vs. the requirements in the appropriate compendia and compared to the results generated by the TL.

Replicate and Criteria Setting When Transferring Impurity Methods

Where lots are not available with impurities at a level suitable for meaningful interlaboratory comparison, strategies will be considered to adequately assess the ability of the RL to detect and quantify impurities. This may include spiking/recovery experiments, where appropriate. If a spiking experiment is conducted, and at least one specified impurity is available, recovery should be assessed at or between the Quantification Limit (QL) and Specification limit. For multiple strength drug products made from a common or similar blend, only one dosage strength needs to be spiked.

If the historical data shows levels of an impurity in the lot identified for the transfer below the QL but above the Limit of Detection (LOD), then it is recommended that the experimental plan include a requirement to perform multiple analyses (e.g. 3) of an un-spiked sample from the same lot and then use the average results from the un-spiked sample in the recovery calculations to correct for the presence of the impurity in the sample. In instances where impurities are not available, it may be acceptable to dilute a standard of the main component down to the QL and perform a study to ensure that the RL can achieve the appropriate levels of precision and sensitivity. Other strategies may be used as long as they are in the Transfer Plan.

1. Replicates

If the samples contain impurities at levels suitable for inter-laboratory comparison, a minimum of 3 sample preparations/lot should be analysed when conducting the method transfer. If the impurity method evaluates main band assay and impurities from the same sample injection or from a diluted sample, then the assay replicate pattern should be used for both. For TLC methods, only one sample replicate is required.