



Recommendation of the Council on Procedure for Labelling Pharmaceutical Specialities

**OECD Legal
Instruments**

This document is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. It reproduces an OECD Legal Instrument and may contain additional material. The opinions expressed and arguments employed in the additional material do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD Member countries.

This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

For access to the official and up-to-date texts of OECD Legal Instruments, as well as other related information, please consult the Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments at <http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>.

Please cite this document as:

OECD, *Recommendation of the Council on Procedure for Labelling Pharmaceutical Specialities*, OECD/LEGAL/0055

Series: OECD Legal Instruments

© OECD 2018

This document is provided free of charge. It may be reproduced and distributed free of charge without requiring any further permissions, as long as it is not altered in any way. It may not be sold.

This document is available in the two OECD official languages (English and French). It may be translated into other languages, as long as the translation is labelled "unofficial translation" and includes the following disclaimer: *"This translation has been prepared by [NAME OF TRANSLATION AUTHOR] for informational purpose only and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed by the OECD. The only official versions are the English and French texts available on the OECD website <http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>"*

Date(s)

Adopted on 02/04/1963
Abrogated on 12/07/2017

THE COUNCIL¹,

HAVING REGARD to Article 5 b) of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation of the Council of 3 July 1962 on Administrative and Technical Regulations which Hamper the Expansion of Trade [C(62)108(Final)];

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation of the Council of 25 September 1962 on Procedure for the Registration of Pharmaceutical Specialities [C(61)106(Final)];

CONSIDERING the desirability of eliminating discrimination and facilitating trade in pharmaceutical products between Member countries;

RECOMMENDS Governments of Member countries to harmonize and simplify as far as possible the procedures in force or foreseen for the labelling of pharmaceutical products, taking into account the criteria set out in the Annex to this Recommendation.

ANNEX

CRITERIA FOR THE LABELLING OF PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES

The following list gives the maximum information which, from the public health point of view, should be shown on the outside of a package containing a pharmaceutical speciality or on the container (bottle, tube, etc.) containing the speciality.

This list should not be considered to preclude the insertion on labels of other information (such as price data) which national regulation require to be shown, insofar as this additional data is called for on grounds other than those of public health.

It is recognised that the information to be included on ampoules and other small containers must be left to the discretion of the authorities.

1. Name of speciality;
2. Composition (formula):
 - a) Qualitative;
 - b) Quantitative of active principles;
3. Reference number for identifying production (batch number);
4. The number of the marketing authorisation;
5. Name and address of:
 - a) Manufacturer, or
 - b) Responsible vendor;
6. Restricted distribution, where applicable
7. Pharmaceutical form and contents²;
8. Methods of use;
9. Date of expiry (if necessary);
10. Special conservation precautions (if necessary);
11. Special distinctive marks under legislation relating to poisons and narcotics.

NOTE. The information required under Items 8, 9 and 10 should be given in the language or languages of the country in which the pharmaceutical speciality is being sold.

¹ Canada abstained. The United States abstained "temporarily". This Recommendation does not apply to Australia.

² This information should only be shown on the outside of the package. It should be noted that, under the Norwegian regulations, the pharmaceutical form and contents should be indicated on bottles, tubes, etc. unless the container is very small.

Adherents*

OECD Members

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Chile
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Latvia
Luxembourg
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States

Non-Members

* Additional information and statements are available in the Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments:
<http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>

About the OECD

The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD Member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union takes part in the work of the OECD.

OECD Legal Instruments

Since the creation of the OECD in 1961, around 450 substantive legal instruments have been developed within its framework. These include OECD Acts (i.e. the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in accordance with the OECD Convention) and other legal instruments developed within the OECD framework (e.g. Declarations, international agreements).

All substantive OECD legal instruments, whether in force or abrogated, are listed in the online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments. They are presented in five categories:

- **Decisions:** OECD legal instruments which are legally binding on all Members except those which abstain at the time of adoption. While they are not international treaties, they entail the same kind of legal obligations. Adherents are obliged to implement Decisions and must take the measures necessary for such implementation.
- **Recommendations:** OECD legal instruments which are not legally binding but practice accords them great moral force as representing the political will of Adherents. There is an expectation that Adherents will do their utmost to fully implement a Recommendation. Thus, Members which do not intend to do so usually abstain when a Recommendation is adopted, although this is not required in legal terms.
- **Declarations:** OECD legal instruments which are prepared within the Organisation, generally within a subsidiary body. They usually set general principles or long-term goals, have a solemn character and are usually adopted at Ministerial meetings of the Council or of committees of the Organisation.
- **International Agreements:** OECD legal instruments negotiated and concluded within the framework of the Organisation. They are legally binding on the Parties.
- **Arrangement, Understanding and Others:** several ad hoc substantive legal instruments have been developed within the OECD framework over time, such as the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, the International Understanding on Maritime Transport Principles and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendations.