§ 864.9 Limitations of exemptions from section 510(k) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act).

The exemption from the requirement of premarket notification (section 510(k) of the act) for a generic type of class I or II device is only to the extent that the device has existing or reasonably foreseeable characteristics of commercially distributed devices within that generic type or, in the case of in vitro diagnostic devices, only to the extent that misdiagnosis as a result of using the device would not be associated with high morbidity or mortality. Accordingly, manufacturers of any commercially distributed class I or II device for which FDA has granted an exemption from the requirement of premarket notification must still submit a premarket notification to FDA before introducing or delivering for introduction into interstate commerce for commercial distribution the device when:

(a) The device is intended for a use different from the intended use of a legally marketed device in that generic type of device; e.g., the device is intended for a different medical purpose, or the device is intended for lay use where the former intended use was by health care professionals only;
(b) The modified device operates using a different fundamental scientific technology than a legally marketed device in that generic type of device; e.g., a surgical instrument cuts tissue with a laser beam rather than with a sharpened metal blade, or an in vitro diagnostic device detects or identifies infectious agents by using deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) probe or nucleic acid hybridization technology rather than culture or immunoassay technology; or
(c) The device is an in vitro device that is intended:
   (1) For use in the diagnosis, monitoring, or screening of neoplastic diseases with the exception of immunohistochemical devices;
   (2) For use in screening or diagnosis of familial or acquired genetic disorders, including inborn errors of metabolism;
   (3) For measuring an analyte that serves as a surrogate marker for screening, diagnosis, or monitoring life-threatening diseases such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), chronic or active hepatitis, tuberculosis, or myocardial infarction or to monitor therapy;
   (4) For assessing the risk of cardiovascular diseases;
   (5) For use in diabetes management;
   (6) For identifying or inferring the identity of a microorganism directly from clinical material;
   (7) For detection of antibodies to microorganisms other than immunoglobulin G (IgG) or IgG assays when the results are not qualitative, or are used to determine immunity, or the assay is intended for use in matrices other than serum or plasma;
   (8) For noninvasive testing as defined in §812.3(k) of this chapter; and
   (9) For near patient testing (point of care).

[65 FR 2310, Jan. 14, 2000]

Subpart B—Biological Stains

§ 864.1850 Dye and chemical solution stains.

(a) Identification. Dye and chemical solution stains for medical purposes are mixtures of synthetic or natural dyes or nongray chemicals in solutions used in staining cells and tissues for diagnostic histopathology, cytopathology, or hematology.
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(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). These devices are exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to the limitations in §864.9. These devices are also exempt from the current good manufacturing practice requirements of the quality system regulation in part 820 of this chapter, with the exception of §820.180, with respect to general requirements concerning records, and §820.198, with respect to complaint files.


§ 864.1860 Immunohistochemistry reagents and kits.

(a) Identification. Immunohistochemistry test systems (IHC’s) are in vitro diagnostic devices consisting of polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies labeled with directions for use and performance claims, which may be packaged with ancillary reagents in kits. Their intended use is to identify, by immunological techniques, antigens in tissues or cytologic specimens. Similar devices intended for use with flow cytometry devices are not considered IHC’s.

(2) Classification of immunohistochemistry devices. (1) Class I (general controls). Except as described in paragraphs (2)(1) and (2)(3) of this section, these devices are exempt from the premarket notification requirements in part 807, subpart E of this chapter. This exemption applies to IHC’s that provide the pathologist with adjunctive diagnostic information that may be incorporated into the pathologist’s report, but that is not ordinarily reported to the clinician as an independent finding. These IHC’s are used after the primary diagnosis of tumor (neoplasm) has been made by conventional histopathology using nonimmunologic histochemical stains, such as hematoxylin and eosin. Examples of class I IHC’s are differentiation markers that are used as adjunctive tests to subclassify tumors, such as keratin.

(2) Class II (special control, guidance document: “FDA Guidance for Submission of Immunohistochemistry Applications to the FDA,” Center for Devices and Radiologic Health, 1988). These IHC’s are intended for the detection and/or measurement of certain target analytes in order to provide prognostic or predictive data that are not directly confirmed by routine histopathologic internal and external control specimens. These IHC’s provide the pathologist with information that is ordinarily reported as independent diagnostic information to the ordering clinician, and the claims associated with these data are widely accepted and supported by valid scientific evidence. Examples of class II IHC’s are those intended for semiquantitative measurement of an analyte, such as hormone receptors in breast cancer.

(3) Class III (premarket approval). IHC’s intended for any use not described in paragraphs (2)(1) or (2)(2) of this section.

(c) Date of PMA or notice of completion of a PDP is required. As of May 28, 1976, an approval under section 515 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is required for any device described in paragraph (2)(3) of this section before this device may be commercially distributed. See §864.3.

[63 FR 30142, June 3, 1998]

Subpart C—Cell And Tissue Culture Products

§ 864.2220 Synthetic cell and tissue culture media and components.

(a) Identification. Synthetic cell and tissue culture media and components are substances that are composed entirely of defined components (e.g., amino acids, vitamins, inorganic salts) that are essential for the survival and development of cell lines of humans and other animals. This does not include tissue culture media for human ex vivo tissue and cell culture processing applications as described in §876.5885 of this chapter.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to the limitations in §864.9.