



GDP – Good Distribution Practice

EU Guidelines for Quality in Pharma Logistics



As a patient, you want to be certain that the quality of your medication remains unchanged throughout the chain of supply. How can you be sure that the pills that arrive at your hospital, your physician or pharmacist are identical to those shipped by the manufacturer? As an organization that is part of this chain of supply, you can ensure this by complying with the EU Guidelines for Good Distribution Practice of medicinal products for human use. Its focus: distribution, security, temperature control, packaging quality and reliable, functional technology.

Compliance with the GDP requirements is recognized proof of a company having successfully established the relevant controls in the supply chain; it is therefore able to deliver safe products of high quality in accordance with the requirements of pharmaceutical manufacturers. Implementing these requirements and having their effectiveness confirmed by an independent third party makes you a reliable business partner within the health care sector's chain of supply. By consistently applying the Guidelines, and by responsibly handling medicinal products for human use, you set a competitive advantage, and you contribute to enhancing patient safety.

GDP requires a well implemented and effective quality management system. Building on that, organizations can implement the specific requirements of the GDP Guideline with little effort.



EU Guideline* on Quality in Pharma Logistics

There are many requirements for pharmaceutical products even after assembling and packaging. Medicinal products and excipients are usually distributed over long distances and through different climate zones, and are stored in various warehouses – overall, the distribution network is constantly getting more complex. In addition, the awareness of compliance with good storage, transport and distribution practices is growing globally. The EU Guideline on Good Distribution Practice (GDP) tightens the requirements for transport and logistics service providers. It also addresses pharmacies and wholesalers, as well as logistics providers operating in procurement, stock receipt, storage, shipping and transport.

**For companies operating exclusively outside the EU, DQS also offers certification according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Good Distribution Practices for Pharmaceutical Products”.*



Benefits of GDP Pharma certification

- Significantly fewer individual customer audits
- Higher degree of transparency and reliability in the supply chain
- Noticeably fewer damages and loss
- Increased legal certainty and improved reputation
- Possibly lower insurance premiums due to recognition by insurers



Certification to GDP

Internationally accepted pharmaceutical GDP regulations stipulate that distributors of pharmaceutical products must align their operations with the standards. The scheme ensures that consistent quality management systems are in place throughout your entire supply chain, from the early delivery of raw materials to the manufacturing plants, to the final shipment of finished drugs to the end user. An independent assessment of compliance against international GDP requirements is the most effective way to establish that your quality management system aligns with GDP guidance.

A certification body's competence, professionalism, and customer orientation are of decisive importance for your sustainable success. The DQS certification process starts with getting to know each other and with an initial exchange of information to prepare a detailed offer. During the GDP audit, our sector-experienced auditors will analyze your procedures and processes as well as those of your partners in the supply chain. This ensures that you will continuously deliver high-quality services in accordance with the expectations of the pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The certificate is valid for three years, starting from the date of issue. After 12 months at the latest, and at least once per year, surveillance audits will be conducted. Recertification needs to be conducted before the certificate expires.

DQS – Expertise in logistics certification

DQS offers a diversified range of different standards and rules specifically designed for the logistics sector, DQS provides a holistic view on conformity to individual standards and optimizing their interconnection. DQS combines sector-specific expertise and offers e.g. audits according to GDP, ISO 28000, IFS Logistics, TAPA and much more. To stay up-to-date about our product range for the logistics industry, please regularly visit DQS Holding homepage: [Logistics certification](#)



DQS – Global presence - Local points of contact

DQS is one of the leading certification bodies for management systems worldwide. With 85 offices in 60 countries, and 2,500 auditors and experts worldwide, DQS is your trusted partner for sustainable success. DQS Holding, based in Frankfurt, provides the strategic leadership for all DQS offices worldwide. We strive for one common goal: to improve our customers' management systems and organizational health by offering value-adding assessment services.

Where to find us

Please contact the local DQS office in your area.
The list is available online at the Group website here



 

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Certification expertise worldwide
Do you need specific information?
Please contact a DQS local office