

A Note on COVID-19- Raw Material Imports from China

Jubilant Generics Limited (“Jubilant”) engaged in manufacturing of **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** is part of the Jubilant Life Sciences Limited, an integrated global Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences company.

1. Introduction:

Jubilant manufactures essential medicines and drugs that are needed for sustaining patients’ lives. At its plant located at Nanjangud, Mysore, Karnataka, India, Jubilant manufactures Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs or Bulk Drugs) like Azithromycin Dihydrate and Azithromycin Monohydrate, which are needed to fight the global menace of Corona Virus (“COVID-19”). These have been identified as a front line treatment for patients infected with COVID-19. Therefore, it was critical for the company to continue its operations in its efforts to help fight the global epidemic of COVID-19. Just like the health workers world over, pharmaceutical drug manufacturing is contributing towards helping patients by producing essential medicines.

2. COVID-19 Incident:

On Thursday, 26th March 2020, the District administration informed the Company that one of the employees (P52) tested positive for COVID-19. The employee was unwell and had stopped coming to the plant from 11AM on 20th March’2020. He did not attend office from 21st March’2020 to 26th March’2020 until he was detected positive. He was put under medical supervision at a Government hospital and the Company has been getting information from the Government authorities that he is recuperating well. The company is constantly in touch with him and his family and has extended all possible support and help.

The company has been sharing all information and specially related to P52 promptly and transparently with the concerned authorities.

Subsequently, the local administration informed the Company that some more employees from the facility have tested positive and are admitted to different hospitals. The Company is providing all possible assistance to them and their families and keeping track of their well-being through the Government Health Authorities.

As a precautionary measure and as advised by the local authorities, **the plant operations were temporarily suspended and all the personnel were put under self-quarantine.**

On Friday, 27th March, 2020 and on 29th March, the Health officials visited the plant and took samples of FIVE imported Raw Materials used for manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).

Two of the samples are from material that came more than one year ago and one of the samples has come from The Netherlands even before the first case was detected in China. Two samples from Raw Material from China were ordered before the COVID-19 crisis begun.

We understand that these samples have been sent to National Institute of Virology, Pune for testing of COVID-19 and results are expected soon.

3. Raw Material Imports from China:

India continues to import billions of dollars and thousands of metric tons of material from China, Europe and USA, all having high number of positive cases. These raw materials come at all temperatures including cold conditions. Globally no country has put any import/export restriction, as there is no evidence that this virus survives beyond 72 hrs at any temperature. India continues to import 70% of its raw material for Pharmaceuticals from China.

With reference to the testing of the Raw Material imported from China as mentioned above, the company's understanding as per the literature is as follows:

- a. All the Raw Material sampled under the query has taken more than **THREE WEEKS (>21days)** to reach the plant by **Sea Route**. Further about the query that this Raw Material has come under cold chain is also **NOT FACTUALLY CORRECT**. The Raw materials have all come under NORMAL containers with **NO COLD CHAIN** and thus facing high temperature.
- b. The storage area for the sampled raw material is also under normal temperature and **not in cold conditions** and the temperature was above 32degrees Celsius as was taken by the authorities on the day the samples were drawn.
- c. **None of the Raw Materials** imported from China for the plant comes **under any Cold Chain or Refrigerated Container**.
- d. **P52**, who was the first positive case of Covid-19 from our Nanjangud facility, **never had any direct contact with any such raw material** nor had **any role in receiving, transporting or storage of any raw material** in the Company plant premises.
- e. **The New England Journal of Medicine reference is provided. The journal is among the most reputed ones for medical research and is referred to by various health bodies. It states that the COVID-19 Virus cannot survive for more than 72 hrs on any surface. The link for the same is** :
https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973?query=featured_home

As all public evidence referred above indicate that the COVID-19 Virus cannot survive for more than 72hours on any surface. It is very surprising that the Raw Material samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune for testing for COVID-19.

The Company is awaiting the results of the samples taken by the Government authorities of Karnataka, however, we find that a wrong perception has been created in the public and media already that the COVID-19 Virus in Nanjangud has come from material imported by Sea Route from China and the Company was negligent about this.