Guiding Opinions on the Standardized Development of Modern Pharmaceutical Logistics

China – NMPA National Medical Products Administration

Main information

Scope of Application:

Unified technical standard for pharmaceutical logistics across the country, eliminating the previous discrepancies between provincial regulations to support the development of a unified national market

Effective Date:

March 20th, 2026

Related Provisions:

- Administrative Measures for the Supervision of the Quality of Pharmaceutical Distribution and Use
- GSP Good Supply Practices

Pharm.east.

Key Topics

Framework

- The Measures for the Administration of Drug Distribution and Use legally require wholesale companies to have "modern logistics facilities" and provides the mandate for provincial standards. The Guiding Opinions provide unified standards for the whole market by setting **national technical standards for what constitutes "modern logistics"** and details specific requirements for facilities, IT systems, and third-party logistics (3PL) providers.

What's new

- Obligation to establish and improve a **quality management system** for pharmaceutical modern logistics, set up organizational structures and positions appropriate to such logistics operations, formulate system documents, job responsibilities, and operating procedures, and allocate qualified personnel engaged in pharmaceutical distribution and quality management.
- Specific provisions for **Third-party Logistics (3PL) Enterprises**: specific standards including larger warehouse capacities, dedicated information exchange platforms, and strict contractual obligations with clients.
- The Opinions officially define **modern pharmaceutical logistics** as a process that must achieve "**scaling, intensification, digitalization, intelligence, and traceability."**

Sensitive Factors

- **Cybersecurity** and **Data Management**: requiring separate, non-interfering database management for different clients in 3PL settings and mandatory real-time government traceability data access. Protection of information classified as Trade Secret.
- **Dual implementation**: Opinions applicable both for application for new Logistic Licenses, and for inspection conducted by NMPA provincial level.

Drivers

- **Technical Agreements:** especially for 3PL operators, it is mandatory to implement agreements at a technical level to ensure the compliance of the new standards towards their entrusting operators. The compliance is now evaluated under specific technical definition of “modern pharmaceutical logistics”
- **Data Management:** logistics operators must ensure **interoperability** with their entrusting operators (information exchange platform) together with secrecy towards third parties and other clients (information privacy; trade secret protection)

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