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# eCTD v4.0 Implementation Update

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# Agenda

- ICH Activities
- FDA Activities
- FDA Implementation Strategy
- Technical Feedback on eCTD v4.0 Samples
- How to Prepare
- Resources





# ICH Activities

# ICH Activities



- ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Guide
  - V1.6 May 2024
- ICH eCTD v4.0 Controlled Vocabulary Package
  - V1.0 May 2024
- Q&A Change Requests
  - V1.8 May 2024
- eCTD Tool Vendor Group Established
  - Sign up on ICH web page
- Regional Implementation Information posted on ICH eCTD v4.0 webpage (fig. 1)
  - Technical pilots & implementation dates
  - Links to regional implementation documents

Region	Technical Pilot <sup>1</sup>	Implementation Dates <sup>2</sup>	Implementation Documents
ANVISA, Brazil	4Q 2025 (Planned)	1Q 2026 (Production Pilot <sup>2</sup> ) 2026 (Voluntary)	TBD
EC, Europe	2024 CAPs (Planned)	2025 (Voluntary for CAPs <sup>2</sup> ) 2026 (Voluntary for MRP/DCP/NP) 2027 (Mandatory for CAPs) TBC (Mandatory for MRP/DCP/NP)	<a href="#">EC, Europe regional implementation page</a>
FDA, United States	2022 - 2Q 2023 (Completed)	2024 (Voluntary) 2029 (Mandatory)	<a href="#">FDA, United States regional implementation page</a>
Health Canada, Canada	2025 (Planned)	2026 (Voluntary) 2028 (Mandatory)	<a href="#">Health Canada, Canada regional implementation page</a>
MFDS, Republic of Korea	TBD	2027 (Voluntary) TBD (Mandatory)	TBD
MHLW/PMDA, Japan	2Q 2021 (Completed)	2022 (Voluntary) 2026 (Mandatory)	<a href="#">MHLW/PMDA, Japan regional implementation page</a>
Swissmedic, Switzerland	2025 (Planned)	2026 (Voluntary) 2029 (Mandatory)	<a href="#">Swissmedic, Switzerland regional implementation page</a>
TGA, Australia	4Q 2025 (Planned)	2026 (Voluntary) TBD (Mandatory)	<a href="#">TGA Implementation of ICH eCTD v4.0 Specification</a>

Fig 1 – Snippet of Regional Implementation Information



# FDA Activities

# FDA Activities



- CDER/CBER Supporting eCTD v4.0 as of September 16, 2024
  - Federal Register Notice – [published 9/16/24](#)
  - For a listing of eCTD v4.0 Implementation Guides, Specifications, Validations, Technical Conformance Guide, and Supportive Files, refer to the [eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1](#)

(fig. 2)

- eCTD Guidance – Revision 8
  - Updated hyperlinks
  - Added references to eCTD v4.0
- FDA Data Standards Catalog
  - Added eCTD v4.0
- FDA Study Data Technical Conformance Guide
  - Added eCTD v4.0 related references

## eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1

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The table below lists all the documents and supportive files applicable to eCTD submissions to CDER and CBER.

[Version History](#)

[Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0](#)

[Validation Tools and Electronic Submission Validation Criteria in Use](#)

### Version History

9/16/2024 - Date Support Begins Added

### Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0

Search:

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Use/Regulatory Reference	Type	Version	Implementation Guide Reference	Date Support Begins	Date Requirement Begins	Date Support Ends
<a href="#">eCTD v4.0 Comprehensive Table of Contents Headings and Hierarchy</a>	Documentation and Resources	2.1		9/16/2024		
<a href="#">eCTD v4.0 Module 1 Implementation Package (Implementation Guide, CV)</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.5.1		9/16/2024		
<a href="#">eCTD v4.0 Technical Conformance Guide</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.3	Final Guidance for Industry: Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format – eCTD Specifications	9/16/2024		
<a href="#">ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package (IG, CV, Generic Code Files, and Schema Files)</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.5	M8 eCTD: Electronic Common Technical Document Specifications	9/16/2024		
<a href="#">Specifications for eCTD v4.0 Validation Criteria</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.3.1		9/16/2024		

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Fig. 2 – Snippet of eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1





# FDA Implementation Strategy

# FDA Implementation Strategy



- Initial release/acceptance for new applications in eCTD v4.0 *(fig. 3)*
  - Allows for development of eCTD v4.0 applications across regions
  - CDER/CBER support started 9/16/24
  - Sample submissions can be sent to CDER ESUB for technical feedback
- Future phases
  - Transition of current applications (Forward Compatibility)
  - Two-way communication

## Electronic Common Technical Document (eCTD) v4.0



The documentation and links on this webpage provide information on how to submit eCTD v4.0-based electronic submissions to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) or the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER).

### FDA eCTD v4.0 Implementation Status

CDER and CBER are accepting new regulatory applications in eCTD v4.0 format as of September 16, 2024. More information can be found on the [eCTD page](#).

Future implementation phases will address forward compatibility for existing v3.2.2 applications and two-way communication.

### eCTD Submission Standards

For a listing of eCTD v4.0 Implementation Guides, Specifications, Validations, Technical Conformance Guide, and Supportive Files, please refer to the [eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1](#).

### Send a Sample v4.0 Submission to FDA

There is an optional process to submit a sample eCTD v4.0 and/or standardized data sample for feedback. Currently only new application samples will be evaluated. Future phases will include evaluation of forward compatibility. For information on the process of submitting a sample, please refer to [Submit an eCTD v4.0 or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA](#).

### Additional Resources: ICH eCTD v4.0 Step 4 – Implementation Package

The ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package, regional Implementation timeline information, and related files are available for download from the [ICH eCTD v4.0 Step 4](#) page.

To submit comments or questions on the ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package please see the Change Control section on the [ICH eCTD v4.0](#) page.

*Fig. 3 – Snippet of FDA eCTD v4.0 web page* Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

# Technical Feedback on eCTD v4.0 Samples

# Technical Feedback on eCTD v4.0 Samples



## Submit an eCTD or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA

## Submit an eCTD v4.0 or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA



FDA would like to assist sponsors and applicants who have not previously submitted in eCTD v4.0. We offer a process to validate sample new eCTD v4.0 submissions and standardized study datasets. You must have an NDA, IND, BLA, ANDA, or MF number and plan to submit an actual submission to the FDA within 12 months of your sample request. Sample submissions are not considered official submissions and are not reviewed by FDA reviewers at any time.

When testing is complete, FDA will provide you with feedback, highlighting the errors found during the processing of the sample submission.

### Sample Submission Validation Process

Follow these steps to submit a sample submission:

1. [Request a Sample Application Number](#)
2. [Submit your sample](#)
3. [Resolve technical issues](#)
4. [Submission and study data support](#)

#### 1. Request a Sample Application Number

To initiate the process of submitting a sample submission, notify the electronic submissions staff at [ESUB-Testing@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ESUB-Testing@fda.hhs.gov) to request a Sample Application Number.

Include the following in your email:

- FDA CDER eSub team performs technical validation on the sample submission and reports back on validation errors and other technical issues
- Find information about it here: [Submit an eCTD v4.0 or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA | FDA](#) (Fig. 4)

Fig. 4 – Snippet of FDA eCTD sample web page  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

# How to Prepare

# How to Prepare



- Discuss eCTD v4.0 development plans with your vendor and/or IT organization
  - Understanding the specifications
  - Is there a plan for transitioning to eCTD v4.0?
  - Send questions to ICH or FDA
  
- Become familiar with eCTD v4.0 concepts and enhancements
  - ICH Supplemental Documents for eCTD v4.0
    - Support Documentation for eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package - Explains contents enclosed in the Implementation Package. The target audience is business and technical personnel who build and/or review the eCTD v4.0 XML Messages.
    - Orientation Material for eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package - Provides an outline of eCTD v4.0 concepts from business perspective. The target audience is business personnel and management involved in any aspect of eCTD submission design and preparation.
  
  - FDA eCTD v4.0 Technical Conformance Guide
  
- Know where to find the eCTD v4.0 information

# Resources



- ICH eCTD v4.0 Materials (<https://www.ich.org/page/ich-electronic-common-technical-document-ectd-v40>)
  - ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package
  - Supplemental Documents for eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package
  - Regional Implementation Information & Regional Links
  - Change Control
  
- FDA eCTD v4.0 Regional Implementation Information  
(<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/electronic-regulatory-submission-and-review/electronic-common-technical-document-ectd-v40>)
  - FDA eCTD v4.0 M1 Implementation Package
  - eCTD v4.0 Technical Conformance Guide
  - Link to ICH eCTD v4.0 webpage
  
- FDA Related Guidance and Specifications
  - eCTD Guidance – Revision 8 (<https://www.fda.gov/media/135373/download>)
  - FDA Data Standards Catalog (<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/data-standards-catalog>)
  - FDA Study Data Technical Conformance Guide (<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/study-data-technical-conformance-guide-technical-specifications-document>)

# Thank You.

- Questions?