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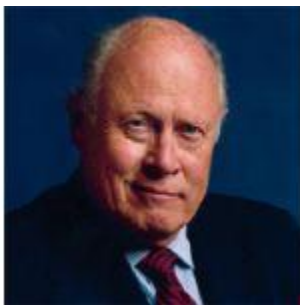


Pharma sector shows increased interest in CCA quality standards

Growing pharmaceuticals industry interest in supply chain quality standards developed by the Europe-based Cool Chain Association (CCA) has prompted the latter to consider whether any amendments are required to meet the specific needs of that sector. [Read Full Brief Here](#)

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Pharmaceuticals sector companies are reportedly now showing "great interest" in the Cool Chain Quality Indicator (CCQI) standards developed by the Cool Chain Association (CCA). As a result, the international association is looking to see if it should make any adjustments to the CCQI specifically to meet the needs of that industry.

The CCA was established four years ago to promote worldwide harmonisation of the way perishables and other temperature-sensitive products (PTSPs) are handled. Now based in Bremen, Germany, the association subsequently created a set of standards for that sector – the CCQI. The CCQI is based on two methods of assessment: mandatory requirements, against which every aspect of a company's perishable supply chain is graded; and a benchmarking system based on key performance indicators.

At the end of last year, CCA chairman Robert Arendal admitted the take-up of the CCQI worldwide had generally been slower than originally anticipated. "We had hoped the process would go faster. But on the other hand, we also have to accept that it takes a little time to get an organisation ready to do it right," he stated then.

However, speaking to *Transport Intelligence* earlier this month, Arendal claimed there were now definite signs of growing international interest in the CCQI and he expected to see substantial progress on that front during 2008. The sources of that developing interest, he said, included organisations involved with the transport of temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical products.

"I attended the pharma sector Cool Chain Europe conference in Brussels, Belgium, at the end of January and found there was great interest in the CCQI for that industry," stated Arendal.

"With the comments and feedback from that conference and others, we are right now evaluating whether any adjustments of the CCQI are required specially for the pharma industry or whether the CCQI master table 'as is' covers the transportation needs of that sector. We should be able to determine that issue prior to the CCA annual meeting in May.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the CCQI would be very helpful to the pharma industry in order to set global standards but we first have to review it in more detail, as well as evaluate other guidelines in this area developed by the pharma industry and various health organisations."

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