



## Accelerated Stability Failure: What happens Next?

ICH-based decision path for proposed shelf-life evaluation  
(Drug products intended for room temperature or refrigerated storage)

### Step 1

Did significant change occur at accelerated condition within 6 months?

- **No** → Exit this branch and continue with the normal long-term/accelerated data evaluation pathway.
- **Yes** → Go to Step 2.

### Step 2

Is the product intended to be stored in a refrigerator?

- **Yes** → Go to Step 3A
- **No** → Go to Step 3B

### Step 3A - If refrigerated product

Did significant change occur at accelerated condition within 3 months?

- **Yes**
  - **No extrapolation**
  - **Shorter retest period or shelf-life can be called for**
  - **Data covering excursions** can be called for
  - Statistical analysis may be needed if long-term data show variability
- **No**  
(i.e. significant change occurred between 3 and 6 months)
  - **No extrapolation**
  - **Shorter retest period or shelf-life can be called for**
  - Statistical analysis may be needed if long-term data show variability

### Step 3B - If not refrigerated

Did significant change occur at the intermediate condition?

- **Yes**
  - **No extrapolation**
  - **Shorter retest period or shelf-life can be called for**
  - Statistical analysis may be needed if long-term data show variability
- **No** → Go to Step 4

### Step 4

Are **BOTH** of the following true?

1. Long-term data are amenable to statistical analysis
  2. Statistical analysis was performed
- **No to (1) or (2)**
    - If backed by relevant supporting data:
    - **Y = up to X + 3 months**
  - **Yes to both**
    - If backed by statistical analysis and relevant supporting data:
    - **Y = up to 1.5X, but not exceeding X + 6 months**

- **X = period covered by long-term data**
- **Y = proposed retest period or shelf-life**

\*Based on ICH Q1E Evaluation of Stability Data: Appendix A - Decision Tree for Data Evaluation for Retest Period or Shelf Life Estimation for Drug Substances or Products (excluding Frozen Products)