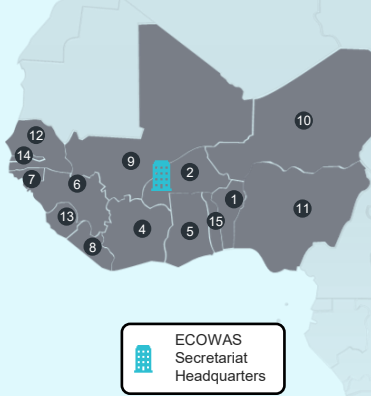


The ECOWAS Joint Assessment Procedure (ECOWAS JAP)

The ECOWAS Joint Assessment Procedure (JAP) is a collaborative initiative among 15 National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs) in West Africa that ensures harmonized and streamlined market authorization of medical products across the region.

Upon approval notification by the West African Health Organization (WAHO), the applicant has 2 years to apply to the 15 ECOWAS Member States that will grant marketing authorization within a maximum of 60 days.

- 1 Benin
- 2 Burkina Faso
- 3 Cape Verde
- 4 Côte d'Ivoire
- 5 Ghana
- 6 Guinea
- 7 Guinea-Bissau
- 8 Liberia
- 9 Mali
- 10 Niger
- 11 Nigeria
- 12 Senegal
- 13 Sierra Leone
- 14 The Gambia
- 15 Togo



Key Features for Success

- 365** Expression of Interest (EOI) all year round
- Pre-submission meetings
- Pre-admission screening and dossier validation
- Expert participation from across the region
- Joint evaluation with WHO, Swissmedic, and EMA (technical partners)

Objective
Increase access to and affordability of good quality, safe, and efficacious medicines

Through

- Harmonized regulatory requirements
- Transparent and efficient regulatory processes

Timeline* (DAYS)

133 without queries

196* including a single round of questions

*This timeline does not consider the time needed for applicants to reply to the comments and list of questions

Scope of Products under the ECOWAS JAP

WHO Essential Medicine List	Programme Medicines	Public Health Emergencies	WHO Prequalified and Stringent Regulatory Authorities (SRAs) Approved*
Life Saving Commodities	Biological Products and Blood Products (Including Vaccines)	WAHO Listed Medical Devices Covered in Calls for EOI	Priority Medical Supplies Determined by WAHO

*For WHO Prequalified and Stringent Regulatory Authority (SRA) approved products the ECOWAS JAP procedure takes only 60 days.

A win-win solution for the applicants and the NRAs:

- ✓ Transparency, efficiency and predictability
- ✓ Streamlined administrative procedures
- ✓ Single point of contact during product assessment
- ✓ Faster and harmonized regulatory approvals
- ✓ Timely access to any of the 15 ECOWAS Member State markets
- ✓ Use of reliance-based procedures

Tips for Success

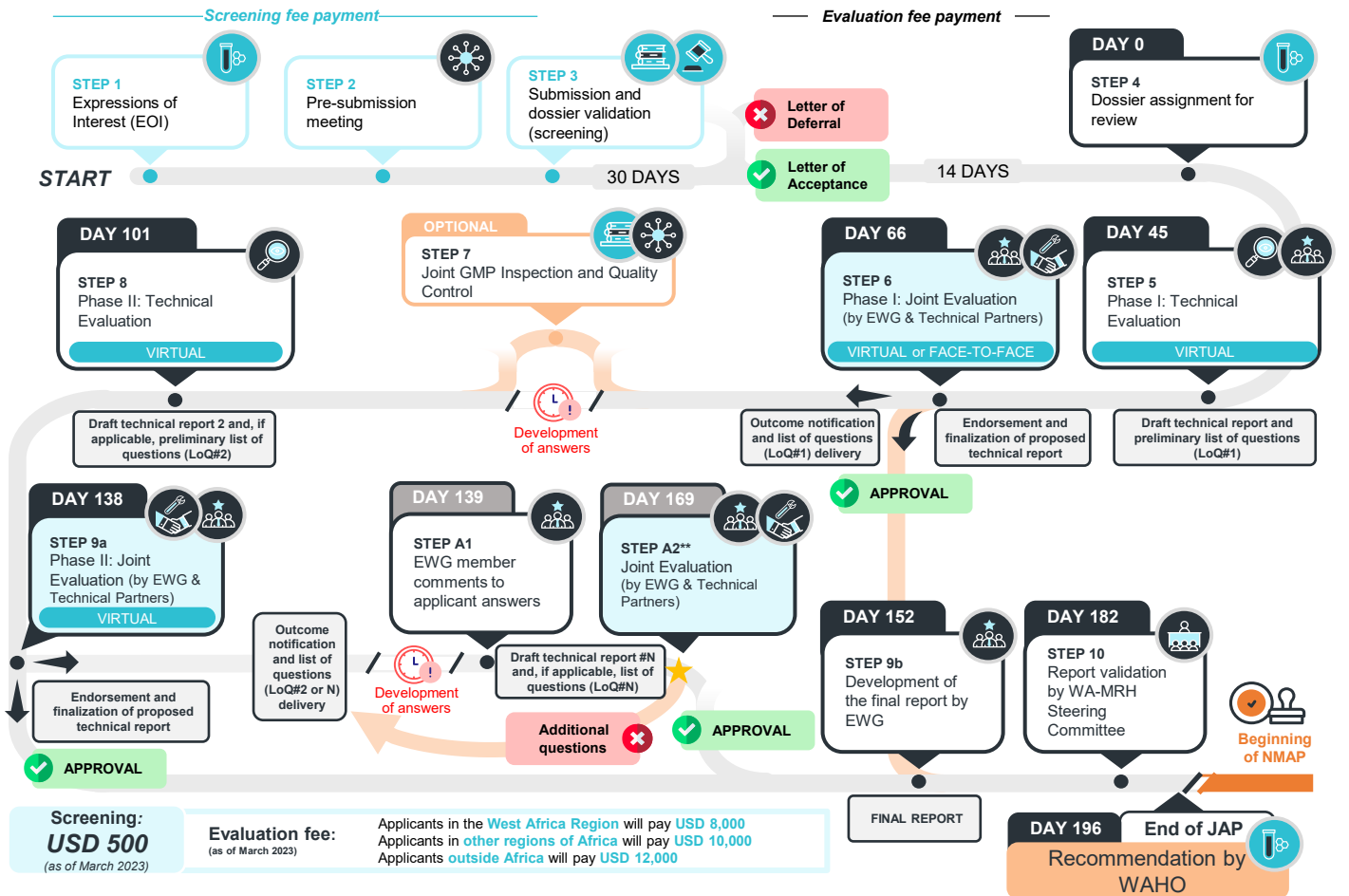
- Attend pre-submission meeting
- Submit dossiers that meet regulatory requirements in ECOWAS CTD format
- Submit complete and timely responses to the LoQs

Abbreviations

CTD	Common Technical Document
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EOI	Expression of Interest
EWG	Experts Working Group
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice

ECOWAS JAP Process Flow

How the joint assessment procedure supports an efficient registration of medicinal products



Decision-makers

- EWG
- ECOWAS-JAP Steering Committee
- NRA Assessors
- Lead Coordinating Authority*
- Technical Partners

Actors involved

- Applicant
- ECOWAS-JAP Secretariat
- EWG Chairman

*On a rotational basis, one of the 15 NRAs acts as a Lead Coordinating Authority (LCA). As of March 2023, the Nigeria regulator serves as LCA. **If dossier is found unacceptable after STEP A2, a re-submission will require an additional payment of 50% of the evaluation fee.

Useful resources

- [ECOWAS JAP initiative portal](#)
- [ECOWAS JAP EOI portal](#)
- [Information on the WAHO Guidelines for GMP](#)
- [Information on the ECOWAS-WAHO eCTD & eSubmission](#)
- [African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Programme](#)

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Scan the QR code and visit the interactive infographic

