

BEFORE THE PHARMACY BOARD OF THE STATE OF IOWA

In the Matter of the Petition for Waiver by: Atlantic Biologicals Corporation Petitioner.	ORDER DENYING WAIVER REQUEST
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Pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.9A and 481 Iowa Administrative Code (“IAC”) 6, the Iowa Board of Pharmacy (“Board”) makes the following ruling on the Petition for Waiver submitted by Atlantic Biologicals Corporation (“Petitioner”).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner has Iowa Wholesaler license number 6213 which was originally issued on January 1, 2004 and will next expire on December 31, 2026.
2. Petitioner’s current license is tied to an accredited facility in Florida and they are now relocating to a new facility in North Carolina that is not yet licensed in Iowa or accredited, but they are in the process of completing both.
3. This Petition relates to the new facility in North Carolina.
4. Petitioner stated in their Petition for Waiver that they seek to waive 481 IAC 551.13(1)(a)(2) which states: To be eligible for licensure as a wholesale distributor, each application will include evidence of:
 - (2) Current drug distributor accreditation by NABP, NCDQS, or another accreditation body approved by the board.
5. Petitioner is specifically seeking to avoid the requirement to obtain NABP accreditation for the new North Carolina facility prior to dispensing products directly into Iowa.
6. Petitioner asserts that they meet the standards for drug supply chain compliance based on their accreditation at the Florida facility and will be obtaining accreditation soon at the North Carolina facility and are seeking a short-term waiver of the NABP accreditation requirement in order to avoid disrupting the supply of medications to Iowa facilities.
7. Historically, the Board has not granted waiver requests to avoid accreditation by NABP for wholesale distributors as the accreditation is an important part of ensuring wholesale distributors are in compliance with all rules and regulations.
8. The Board considered the Petition for Waiver at a board meeting on July 7, 2026.

APPLICABLE LAW

9. Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 481—6.1(3), the Board may in its sole discretion issue an order waiving in whole or in part the requirements of a rule if the board finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, all of the following:
 - a. The application of the rule would impose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;
 - b. The waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person;
 - c. The provisions of the rule subject to the petition for waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
 - d. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested.
10. “The burden of persuasion rests with the petitioner to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the board should exercise its discretion to grant a waiver from a board rule.” 481 IAC 6.1(8)(b).
11. The Board's rules provide “The final decision on whether the circumstances justify the granting of a waiver is at the discretion of the department upon consideration of all relevant factors. Each petition for a waiver will be evaluated by the department based on the unique, individual circumstances set out in the petition.” 481 IAC 6.1(8)(a).
12. “A waiver, if granted, shall provide the narrowest exception possible to the provisions of a rule.” 481 IAC 6.1(8)(f).

ANALYSIS OF WAIVER CRITERIA

Whether the application of the rule would create an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested:

13. Application of the rule would not create an undue hardship on Petitioner as it merely requires them to obtain the accreditation as is required by rule for every entity that wishes to obtain an Iowa wholesale license and puts no additional burden on them. A delay in getting the products to Iowa is currently only a matter of days and does not negatively affect Iowans to require a waiver.

Whether the waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person:

14. Waiving the requirements of the rule would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person.

Whether the provision of the rule subject to the petition for waiver is not specifically mandated by another provision of law:

15. The requirement found in the Board's administrative rule is not specifically mandated by statute.

Whether substantially equal protection of the public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested:

16. The public health, safety, and welfare will not be afforded by other means if this waiver is granted because it is meant to ensure the safety of the entity that wishes to have an Iowa wholesale license and that they are abiding by all pertinent state and federal rules and regulations before such licensure is granted in order to protect Iowans receiving their products.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the reasons set forth above and upon review of the Petition, the Board finds that Petitioner has not satisfied the four criteria for waiver set forth in 481 IAC 6.1(3).

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the Petition for Waiver of 481 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 551.13(1)(a)(2) is DENIED.

Issued July 7, 2026.



Erik Maki, PharmD
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Pharmacy

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