

SUPPLY CHAIN **QUALITY** + **SECURITY**

Outside your facility. Within your standards.

How Good Distribution Practice (GDP) and TAPA standards work together to support quality and security in pharmaceutical transportation.



HDA PCSC GDP Accredited

DeSpir was the first organization to complete the HDA/PCSC GDP Accreditation Program.



TAPA FBSR 2025 TIER 1

Certification applies to DeSpir's freight brokerage security management system, valid through August 2, 2029.

QUALITY

GDP is more than temperature control

GDP supports the quality and integrity of medicines throughout the distribution chain. It encompasses a quality system, trained personnel, documented responsibilities, suitable equipment, oversight of outsourced activities and investigation of deviations. Product handling and temperature requirements should reflect the medicine and its approved conditions. GDP also addresses supply chain integrity and protection against falsified products. [1, 2]

SECURITY

TAPA adds a specific security framework

TAPA is the Transported Asset Protection Association. Its standards address different operational roles: Facility Security Requirements (FSR) cover facilities; Trucking Security Requirements (TSR) address road transport; and Freight Broker Security Requirements (FBSR) address brokers arranging transportation. [3, 4]



WHAT HDA GDP ACCREDITATION MEANS

The Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), through its Pharmaceutical Cargo Security Coalition (PCSC), operates a GDP accreditation program with ASC Associates Ltd. It combines training and organizational assessment against recognized GDP criteria. For a shipper, this provides evidence beyond a provider's own statement that it understands pharmaceutical distribution. [2]

Training followed by organizational assessment

For organizational accreditation, at least two people must complete all three training levels before assessment: GDP Introductory Training, GDP Awareness Training and GDP Responsible Person Training. The curriculum covers GDP principles, risk assessment, supply chain security, prevention of falsified medicines, temperature management, and oversight of operational systems. [2]

A commitment that requires renewal

HDA states that accreditation is valid for two years. Renewal requires refresher training and reassessment. It is therefore a continuing commitment, rather than a one-time course completion.

What this means when choosing a provider

Use accreditation as a starting point for a more informed supplier conversation. Ask the provider to connect its assessed approach to your product, route and service requirements. For example, who approves the transport instructions? How are drivers briefed? Who reviews a deviation, and what evidence will your quality team receive?

Why it matters alongside TAPA

HDA GDP accreditation and TAPA certification address related but distinct areas. Bringing them together helps a shipper evaluate both pharmaceutical handling and transportation security. The strongest evidence is a provider that can explain how these controls work together when the plan changes.

WHERE QUALITY AND SECURITY MEET



An illustrative scenario: a refrigerated pharmaceutical shipment makes an unexpected stop. Location updates are interrupted. Then a temperature alert follows. **Neither alert tells the whole story.**



Shipment
in-transit



Unexpected
stop



Temperature
alert

A temperature deviation may create a product-quality concern. An unexpected stop or loss of tracking may raise questions about custody and security. When both happen together, the response needs to consider both.

ONE INCIDENT. TWO SETS OF QUESTIONS.

01

Before collection

Confirm readiness before shipment moves.



QUALITY

Are the required transport conditions and equipment confirmed?



SECURITY

Are the carrier, driver and collection details verified?

02

During transit

Monitor and respond to changes.



QUALITY

Are conditions being maintained, and are deviations escalated?



SECURITY

Are unexpected stops, route changes or access events investigated?

03

After an incident

Assess, preserve and determine next steps.



QUALITY

Who assesses the potential product impact and determines disposition?



SECURITY

What happened to custody, and what evidence needs to be preserved?

The response should already be defined

Before the shipment moves, the operating plan should establish who contacts the driver, investigates alerts, informs the shipper and preserves temperature, location and custody records.

It should also define what happens if the shipment cannot continue as planned.

Ask your provider to walk you through it

- Who is responsible at each stage
- Who has authority to act
- How Quality, Security and Logistics hand off information
- What records are preserved
- How your team will be kept informed

The real test is not whether separate quality and security procedures exist.
It is whether they work together when the plan changes.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER



What does your accreditation or certification actually cover?

Request current documents showing the entity, scope, standard, level, assessment body and validity. Distinguish organizational accreditation from individual training.

How do you qualify and manage the carrier moving our medicine?

Ask how product requirements, driver training, equipment suitability, subcontracting and changes to the transport plan are controlled.

What happens when quality and security alerts overlap?

Request a walkthrough of notification, investigation, contingency arrangements and the handoff to your quality team.

Can we examine evidence beyond the certificate?

Audit, Audit, Audit. Look beyond the certificate. Review relevant procedures, example shipment records, audit findings and corrective actions. Agree how performance will be reviewed after onboarding.



DESPIR'S APPROACH

DeSpir is a **pharmaceutical logistics specialist** combining **GDP quality practices** with **TAPA supply chain security standards**.

Its integrated capabilities include a qualified carrier network, temperature and location monitoring, geofencing, continuous security monitoring and coordinated response, with additional protection matched to shipment needs. [5]

DeSpir is accredited through HDA's PCSC GDP program. Its TAPA FBSR 2025 Tier 1 certification applies to its freight brokerage security management system. These are distinct credentials, supporting supplier review alongside the controls agreed for each movement. [5, 6]

Talk to DeSpir about bringing quality and security together for your pharmaceutical shipments.



SOURCES

[1] WHO. Good storage and distribution practices for medical products, TRS 1025, Annex 7 (2020).

[2] HDA. PCSC GDP Accreditation Program.

[3] TAPA Americas. Standards overview and current standards.

[4] TAPA Americas. Freight Broker Security Requirements 2025.

[5] DeSpir. Supplied TAPA 101 guide and General Sales Sheet. TAPA guide cites Bureau Veritas certificate US022577, FBSR 2025 Tier 1, valid through August 2, 2029.

[6] HDA. PCSC's GDP Program Adds Four Accredited Companies, April 10, 2025.

HDA accreditation is an industry program, not a regulatory license. Applicable obligations vary by market, activity and product. This educational guide does not replace supplier due diligence or product-specific quality agreements.

