

Regulation of the Pharmaceutical Industry

Studies in Regulation

General Editor: **George Yarrow**, Director, Regulatory Policy Institute and Regulatory Policy Research Centre, Hertford College, Oxford

Government regulation of business activity is a pervasive characteristic of modern economies, including those most committed to free markets. For good or ill, regulation has far-reaching implications for economic performance, and understanding the processes at work is an important task for anyone seeking to analyse the determinants of performance. Quite frequently, however, analysis is restricted to a very specific aspect of business activity or to a particular sector of the economy, an approach that serves to limit the insights into regulatory issues that may be gained.

A guiding principle behind this series of books is that regulatory processes exhibit a number of common features that are likely to manifest themselves in a range of different circumstances. A full understanding of the motives for and effects of regulation therefore requires study of these common features, as well as the specifics of particular cases of government interventions. Thus, it is possible to learn something relevant about, say, the regulation of utilities from the study of financial services regulation, or about industrial policy from the study of environmental regulation.

This focus on regulatory processes in general, as well as on specific aspects of particular interventions, also points to the value of interdisciplinary analysis. Policy formulation, development and implementation each have political, legal and economic aspects, and the boundaries between traditional academic disciplines can be obstacles to progress in regulatory studies. In this series, therefore, a wide range of different perspectives on regulation and on regulatory processes will be presented, with the aim of contributing to the development of new insights into important policy issues of the day.

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Regulation of the Pharmaceutical Industry

Edited by

John Abraham and Helen Lawton Smith

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