CLAIMS

1. A dosage form comprising:

(a) a capsule shell comprising at least one of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, pullulan, carrageenan or a combination thereof; and

(b) at least one tablet within the capsule shell, the at least one tablet containing 5-aminosalicylic acid or a salt thereof as an active ingredient and having an enteric coating that prevents release of the 5-aminosalicylic acid in the upper gastrointestinal tract,

wherein the capsule shell has less than about 10% by weight moisture content at a relative humidity of 60% and a temperature of 25°C,

wherein the capsule shell does not have an enteric coating,

wherein the at least one tablet is a monolithic tablet, and

wherein the dosage form does not contain a desiccant.

2. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein no more than 0.15% w/w 5-[2-formyl-5-(hydroxymethyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl]-2-hydroxybenzoic acid accumulates upon storage of the dosage form at a relative humidity of 60% and a temperature of 25°C for a period of at least six months.

3. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the capsule shell comprises hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

4. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tablet comprises a reducing sugar.

5. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the capsule shell contains one, two, three, four or five tablets.

6. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tablet contains from 50 mg to 1,800 mg of 5-aminosalicylic acid.

7. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating comprises a material selected from the group consisting of poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate) 1:2, poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate) 1:1, and mixtures thereof.

8. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating further comprises a plasticizer.

9. The dosage form according to claim 8, wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, propylene glycols, 1,2-propylene glycol, dibutyl phthalate, dibutyl sebacate, diethyl phthalate, tributyl citrate, triethyl citrate, tributyrin, butyl phthalyl butyl glycolate, triacetin, castor oil, citric acid esters, and combinations thereof.

10. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating further comprises inert solid particulates selected from the group consisting of talc, iron oxide, titanium dioxide, and combinations thereof.

11. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating comprises a single enteric coating.

12. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating comprises a plurality of enteric coatings.

13. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the enteric coating ranges from 50μm to 250μm.

14. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the enteric coating comprises an inner layer of a first polyacrylic acid copolymer enteric coating and an outer layer of a polyacrylic acid copolymer enteric coating that is different than the inner layer.

15. The dosage form according to claim 14, wherein the inner layer of enteric coating is poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate)1:2 and the outer layer of enteric coating is poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate)1:1.

16. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein a drug-release profile of the dosage form is pH dependent.

17. The dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tablet is greater than 5mm in diameter.

18. A kit comprising:

a dosage form according to claim 1; and

a predetermined amount of desiccant.

19. Use of the dosage form according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament useful for the treatment of an inflammatory condition of the gastrointestinal tract.