U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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February 3, 2011

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Director
National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation
of Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Rear Admiral Stokes:

We are pleased to inform you, as required by the ICCVAM Authorization Act, that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission) voted unanimously on January 26, 2011 to approve the recommendations of ICCVAM regarding the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA), including two nonradioactive versions of the assay: (1) the Bromodeoxyuridine Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (BrdU-ELISA), and (2) the Daicel Chemical Industries version (LLNA:DA), as well as (3) an update on the LLNA's applicability domain, particularly its effectiveness in testing pesticide formulations, metals, and substances in aqueous solutions.

Labeling of a consumer product regarding the hazards associated with that product is required by the Federal Hazardous Substances Act "FHSA". In order to determine the appropriate cautionary labeling for "strong sensitizers," animal testing may be necessary. In a tiered-testing strategy, a test substance is tested *in vivo* if the appropriate hazard determination cannot be made from physicochemical characteristics, expert opinion, prior human experience or animal testing. However, the Commission supports minimizing the number of animals used and reducing the pain or suffering associated with animal testing and encourages the development and use of alternatives to animal test models. These alternative nonradioactive LLNA test method protocols encourage the reduction, refinement, or replacement of animals in testing and the data indicate that the methods are scientifically valid methods. In this context, these alternative LLNA methods and the expanded applicability domain may result in additional data that could be used to make a determination if an undiluted chemical or a mixture is a "strong sensitizer." There are inherent problems of testing of mixtures and formulations, and it applies across all toxicity test methods, not just the LLNA. The agency encourages ICCVAM to continue to accrue data,

because the revised draft Addendum does not consider many classes of formulations to which humans may be exposed.

Under the FHSA 15 U.S.C. §1261-1278, the determination of whether a substance is a "strong sensitizer" or not is based upon a weight-of-evidence approach. Therefore, the BrdU-ELISA and the LLNA:DA would fit into a weight-of-evidence evaluation under the FHSA for the purpose of classification for labeling. The briefing package sent to the Commission can be found on the Commission website (www.cpsc.gov) in the Library (FOIA) section at http://www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/FOIA/FOIA11/brief/iccvam.pdf.

Sincerely,

Todd Stevenson