



RESEARCH  
AND ENGINEERING

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3030 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3030

February 25, 2013



RADM William S. Stokes  
Director, NTP Interagency Center  
for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods  
NIEHS P.O. Box 12233  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am replying to your letter dated September 19, 2012 requesting the Department of Defense's (DoD) review of toxicological test recommendations from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). The Department endorses the recommendation for identifying chemical eye hazards using fewer animals. The Department does not currently have research programs that require chemical eye hazard testing in accordance with 16 CFR 1500.42.

I appreciate your leadership role in the federal government's effort to identify and validate alternatives to using animals in research. The ICCVAM has been instrumental in facilitating federal-wide endorsement of alternatives to refine, reduce and replace animal use.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Mason, Ph.D., SES  
Director, Human Performance, Training,  
and BioSystems Directorate