



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

Administrator

JAN 24 2012

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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 (Mail Code K2-16)  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Admiral Stokes:

Thank you for your letter of September 2, 2010 to Secretary LaHood on behalf of Linda S. Birnbaum, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences who forwarded toxicological test method recommendations to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). The DOT is one of several Federal agencies that received the toxicological test method recommendations for consideration. The letter was referred to the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, the agency within DOT responsible for regulating the transport of hazardous materials in commerce and participation in the ICCVAM. Dr. Birnbaum requested that we send the DOT response directly to you. Retirement of former representative, Dr. George Cushmac from federal service in January 2011 has caused a delay in responding to your request. We apologize for this delay.

We reviewed the recommendations for alternative testing methods and strategies proposed to further reduce and refine the use of animals for assessing the ocular hazard potential of chemicals and products. We recognize the potential of these recommendations to reduce and refine the use of animals for assessing ocular hazards. However, the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR 49 CFR 171-180), administered by the DOT, do not include requirements to determine eye hazards.

I hope this information is useful. If we can be of further assistance or answer any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Dr. Steve Hwang, the Division of Research and Engineering, the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety at 202-366-4476.

Regards,

/s/

Cynthia L. Quarterman