



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Rec'd 3/16/09
NICEATM

National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
395 E Street, SW - Ste 9200
Washington, DC 20201
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March 9, 2009

RADM William S. Stokes, D.V.M., DACLAM
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative
Toxicological Methods
NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233, Mail Code EC-17
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

As requested by Dr. Samuel Wilson, Acting Director of National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, in his letter of October 23, 2008, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is herein responding to you regarding *in vitro* test methods for assessing pyrogenicity of pharmaceuticals and other products. These five methods were recommended by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM).

NIOSH agrees that the recommended alternative methods can be considered for use on a case-by-case basis to detect Gram-negative endotoxin in human parenteral drugs, as described in the ICCVAM evaluation report. NIOSH acknowledges the requirement that each agency review these recommended test methods and notify the ICCVAM regarding test methods for which these alternative methods may be substituted. NIOSH is a research agency, has no regulatory testing requirements, and does not perform testing for pyrogenicity of pharmaceuticals using the Rabbit Pyrogen Test. Therefore, this agency has no methods for which the subject methods might be substituted, and these methods are not applicable to the agency. However, NIOSH will inform scientists via its Animal Care and Use Committee and will continue to encourage use or consideration of alternative methods including these, in any animal-using tests that may be conducted by this agency. NIOSH will attempt to identify and support research programs which may contribute to future development of other alternative test methods.

NIOSH commends the efforts and accomplishments of ICCVAM in reviewing and evaluating these alternative methods and other methods. We are proud of our participation on ICCVAM during its activity as an interagency committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond for NIOSH about this achievement.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine M. Branche, Ph.D.
Acting Director
NIOSH