



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
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Washington, DC 20201
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August 14, 2008

RADM William S. Stokes, D.V.M., DACLAM
Executive Director, ICCVAM, NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233, Mail Code EC-17
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

As requested by Dr. Samuel Wilson, Acting Director of NIEHS, in his letter of February 28, 2008, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is herein responding to you regarding *in vitro* test methods for estimating starting doses for acute oral systemic toxicity, recommended by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM).

NIOSH agrees that the recommended alternative methods are valid for estimating starting doses for *in vivo* acute oral toxicity, as described in the ICCVAM evaluation report. NIOSH acknowledges the requirement that each agency review these 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 acute oral systemic toxicity. 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 the past ten years of 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