



APR 1 2008

RADM William S. Stokes
Executive Director
International Coordinating Committee on the Validation
of Alternative Test Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health sciences
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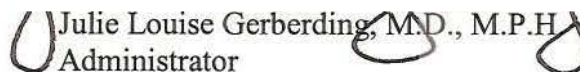
Dear Rear Admiral Stokes:

We recently received a letter from Dr. Samuel H. Wilson, Acting Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), requesting that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) review the National Toxicology Program's Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Methods' recommendations for four *in vitro* test methods proposed for identifying substances that may cause ocular corrosion or severe ocular irritation. The four proposed test methods that we have reviewed are: (1) the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) assay, (2) the Isolated Chicken Egg (ICE) assay, (3) the Isolated Rabbit Eye (IRE) assay, and (4) the Hen's Egg Test-Chorioallantoic Membrane (HET-CAM) assay.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ATSDR concurs with your recommendations regarding these four proposed test methods. If you should have any further questions or concerns, please contact Moiz Mumtaz, ATSDR, at (770) 488-3349, or Bruce Fowler, ATSDR, at (770) 488-7250.

Sincerely,

/s/


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Administrator

cc:

Samuel H. Wilson, M.D., Acting Director, NIH NIEHS