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National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201

February 5, 2008

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Executive Director, ICCVAM, NIEHS
P. O. Box 12233
Mail Code EC-17
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

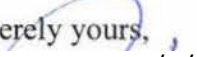
As requested by Dr. Samuel Wilson, Acting Director of NIEHS, in his letter of October 25, 2007, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is herein responding to you regarding four *in vitro* test methods for ocular toxicity recommended by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM).


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 ocular safety. Therefore this agency has no methods for which the subject methods might be substituted. However, NIOSH will continue to encourage use or consideration of alternative methods including these, in any animal-using tests that may be conducted by this agency. We do participate in some National Toxicology Program cooperative assessments that involve animal testing. NIOSH has participated significantly in efforts to validate and improve the Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA), the first test validated by the ICCVAM as an alternative method. 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.

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

Sincerely yours, 
/s/

 John Howard, M.D.
Director

cc:

NIOSH/OD

NIOSH/HELD

NIOSH Control #24965

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Spelling Verified by: MKMusgrave: 02/04/2008

Approved: Albert E. Munson, Ph.D.
Director, HELD

02/04/2008

Date

/s/

Approved: _____
Chief of Staff, NIOSH

2/5/08
Date

/s/

Approved: _____
Director, NIOSH

2/5/08
Date