DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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

RECEIVED
DEC 16 2010

December 15, 2010

RADM William S. Stokes, D.V.M., DACLAM
Director, National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the
Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM)
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
P.O. Box 12233, Mail Code K2-16
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

As requested by Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in her letter of September 2, 2010, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is herein responding to you regarding four test method recommendations for assessing the ocular hazard potential of chemicals and products. These methods were recommended by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM).

NIOSH agrees that the recommended alternative methods are valid for assessing ocular hazards, as described in the ICCVAM evaluation reports. 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 ocular hazards. 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 the agency may conduct. 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 ICCVAM achievement.

Sincerely,

/s/

for John Howard, M.D.
Director