



March 12, 2013

RADM William S. Stokes
Director, National Toxicology Program
Interagency Center for the Evaluation of
Alternative Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233, Mail Code EC-17
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear RADM Stokes:

Dr. Linda Birnbaum recently requested that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) review the report, *ICCVAM Test Method Evaluation Report: Identifying Chemical Eye Hazards with Fewer Animals* (NIH Publication No. 12-7930), prepared by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM).

ATSDR agrees with your proposed test method recommendations for screening and identifying substances that could be hazardous to eye health. We also agree that the three-animal test and the criteria recommended in this report provide adequate information to classify eye hazards of chemicals.

ATSDR uses experimental toxicity testing data but does not perform such testing. At this time, we do not have any alternative test methods to recommend. We will encourage the use of the methods recommended in this report, when appropriate.

If you need further information, please contact Dr. Moiz Mumtaz, Science Advisor, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences (DTHHS), our principal agency representative to ICCVAM, at (770) 488-3349 or Dr. John Wheeler, Acting Assistant Director of Science, DTHHS, at (770) 488-0775.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention, and
Administrator, ATSDR

cc:

Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S., Director, NIEHS
Moiz Mumtaz, Ph.D.
John Wheeler, Ph.D.