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Public Health Service

National Institute for  
Occupational Safety and Health  
Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
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JAN 28 2013

Warren Casey, Ph.D.  
Acting 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  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Casey:

As requested by Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of NIEHS, in her letter of September 19, 2012, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is herein responding to you regarding test method recommendations for identifying chemical eye hazards. 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 identifying chemicals that may be eye hazards, as described in the ICCVAM evaluation reports. NIOSH acknowledges the requirement that each agency review the 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 chemical eye 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,

John Howard, M.D.  
Director