Agency adoption of guidance showing preference for non-animal methods and implementing expedited review
Short communication

Bridging the gap between regulatory acceptance and industry use of non-animal methods

Amy J. Clipping1, Erin Hill2, Rodger Curren2 and Patricia Bishop1

1People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Norfolk, VA, USA; 2Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc., Gaithersburg, MD, USA

Summary
Collaboration between industry and regulators resulted in the development of a decision tree approach using in vitro or ex vivo assays to replace animal tests when determining the eye irritation potential of antimicrobial cleaning products (AMCPs) under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs' hazard classification and labeling system. A policy document issued by the EPA in 2013 and updated in 2015 describes the alternate testing framework that industry could apply to new registrations of AMCPs and, on a case-by-case basis, to conventional pesticide products. Despite the collaborative effort, the availability of relevant non-animal methods, and the EPA's change in policy, only a limited number of AMCPs have been registered using the framework. Companies continue to conduct animal tests when registering AMCPs due to various challenges surrounding adoption of the new testing framework; however, recent discussions between industry, regulators, and other interested parties have identified ways these challenges may be overcome. In this article we explore how use of the alternate framework could be expanded through efforts such as increasing international harmonization, more proactively publicizing the framework, and enhancing the training of regulatory reviewers. Not only can these strategies help to increase use of the EPA alternate eye irritation framework, they can also be applied to facilitate the uptake of other alternative approaches to animal testing in the future.
Increase access to existing data
Training opportunities and goals
As evidenced by this final rule, the Agency has completed its analysis of dog toxicity studies and determined that the 1-year dog study can now be omitted as a core data requirement for pesticides.
Quantify ALL animals used to test specific endpoints
Accessibility and searchability of USDA Category E justifications

[Image of USDA website interface for inspection reports search]

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
Establishment of a public-private center dedicated to replacing and reducing animal testing

Now funded a center of excellence for 3R questions!

http://www.djurensratt.se/3R-center