

THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE VALIDATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS (ICCVAM): RECENT PROGRESS IN THE EVALUATION OF NEW TOXICOLOGICAL TESTING METHODS

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SUMMARY

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) was established in 1997 and subsequently authorized as a permanent committee by the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-545). ICCVAM's duties include the technical evaluation of new and alternative test methods, development of recommendations based on these evaluations, and forwarding test recommendations to Federal agencies for their consideration. ICCVAM collaborates with the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) to evaluate the validation status of proposed test methods. Independent scientific peer review panels assess the extent to which established ICCVAM validation and acceptance criteria have been addressed. Expert workshops and panel meetings are convened to develop recommendations for validation of test methods for which there are not yet adequate validation studies. ICCVAM has completed the independent peer review evaluation of: the Local Lymph Node Assay, an alternative method for assessing allergic contact dermatitis; Corrositex®, an *in vitro* method for assessing skin corrosivity; and the Up-and-Down Procedure, an alternative method for assessing acute oral toxicity. Expert panel evaluations have been completed for an *in vitro* developmental toxicity screening assay and *in vitro* screening methods to detect endocrine active compounds, and an expert workshop has reviewed the validation status of *in vitro* methods for assessing acute systemic toxicity. The acceptance and use of scientifically valid alternative testing methods recommended by ICCVAM is expected to provide for the refinement, reduction, and replacement of animal use while ensuring adequate product safety assessment.

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