U.S. Department
of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave . S E
Washington DC 20590

AUG 26 2008

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Executive Director, ICCVAM
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233 (Mail Code EC-17)
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Admiral Stokes:

Thank you for the letter to Secretary Peters from Samuel H. Wilson, Acting Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences which forwarded toxicological test method recommendations to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). The DOT is one of several Federal agencies that received the toxicological test methods for consideration. The letter was referred to the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA), the agency within DOT responsible for regulations on the transportation of hazardous materials and participation in ICCVAM. Mr. Wilson requested that we send the DOT response directly to you by August 28, 2008.

We reviewed the ICCVAM toxicological test method recommendations. The recommendations provide two *in vitro* alternative test methods for estimating starting doses for acute systemic toxicity tests.

The DOT administers the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) and regulates the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). The HMR include poisonous material (Division 6.1) defined as a material, other than a gas, which is known to be so toxic to humans as to afford a hazard to health during transportation, or which, in the absence of adequate data on human toxicity is presumed to be toxic to humans because it meets criteria for acute oral, dermal, or inhalation toxicity when tested on laboratory animals (49 CFR 173.132).

Compliance with the HMR is the shipper's responsibility (49 CFR 173.22). The HMR do not preclude the use of *in vitro* cytotoxicity test methods for estimating starting doses for acute oral systemic toxicity tests.

Thank you again for writing. I hope this information is useful.

Sincerely,

for Theodore L. Willke
Associate Administrator
for Hazardous Materials Safety