



**ESAC statement on the conclusions of the ICCVAM retrospective study on Organotypic *in vitro* assays as screening tests to identify potential ocular corrosives and severe irritants as determined by US EPA, EU(R41) and UN GHS classifications in a tiered testing strategy, as part of a weight of evidence approach**

At its 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 26-27 April 2007 at the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), Ispra, Italy, the non-Commission members of the ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC)<sup>1</sup> unanimously endorsed the following statement:

1. With regard to the results and conclusions from the ICCVAM retrospective study<sup>2,3</sup> on:

“Organotypic *in vitro* assays as screening tests to identify potential ocular corrosives and severe irritants as determined by US EPA, EU(R41) and UN GHS classifications in a tiered testing strategy, as part of a weight of evidence approach”

ESAC endorses the following conclusion:

There are sufficient data to support the use of the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) test method, and the Isolated Chicken Eye (ICE) test method in appropriate circumstances and with certain limitations<sup>3</sup>, as screening tests to identify substances as ocular corrosives and severe irritants in a tiered-testing strategy, as part of a weight-of-evidence approach.

2. With regard to the Isolated Rabbit Eye assay (IRE) and the Hen’s Egg Test – Chorio-Allantoic Membrane assay (HET-CAM), ESAC recommends that further work should be performed before a statement on their validity can be made.

It should be noted, however, that European authorities previously stated that while all four tests were not yet validated, positive outcomes from these tests could be used as the basis for classifying and labelling substances as severe eye irritants (R41)<sup>4</sup>.

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1. The ESAC was established by the European Commission, and is composed of nominees from the EU Members States, industry, academia and animal welfare, together with representatives of the relevant Commission services.

This statement was endorsed by the following members of the ESAC:

Ms Sonja Beken (Belgium)  
Ms Dagmar Jírová (Czech Republic)  
Mr Tõnu Püssa (Estonia)  
Mr Lionel Larue (France)  
Mr Manfred Liebsch (Germany)  
Ms Annalaura Stamatì (Italy)  
Mr Jan van der Valk (The Netherlands)  
Mr Constantin Mircioiu (Romania)  
Mr Albert Breier (Slovakia)  
Ms Argelia Castaño (Spain)  
Mr Patric Amcoff (Sweden)  
Mr Jon Richmond (UK)  
Mr Carl Westmoreland (COLIPA)  
Ms Vera Rogiers (ECOPA)  
Ms Nathalie Alépée (EFPIA)  
Mr Robert Combes (ESTIV)  
Mr Hasso Seibert (European Science Foundation)

The following Commission Services and Observer Organisations were involved in the consultation process, but not in the endorsement process itself.

Mr Thomas Hartung (ECVAM; chairman)  
Mr Jens Linge (ECVAM; ESAC secretary)  
Ms Elke Anklam (Director of IHCP)  
Ms Susanna Louhimies (DG Environment)  
Ms Barbara Mentré (DG ENTR)  
Ms Grace Patlewicz (ECB, DG JRC)  
Mr Christian Wimmer (DG Research)  
Mr Hajime Kojima (JACVAM)  
Ms Laurence Musset (OECD)  
Mr Barry Philips (Eurogroup for Animal Welfare)  
Mr William Stokes (NICEATM, USA)

2. “Background Review Documents on In vitro test methods for detecting ocular corrosives and severe irritants”:
  - o Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability test;
  - o Isolated Rabbit Eye test;
  - o Hen’s Egg Test – Chorio-Allantoic Membrane test;
  - o Isolated Chicken Eye test.Website:  
[http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/ocutox/ivocutox/ocu\\_brd.htm](http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/ocutox/ivocutox/ocu_brd.htm)
3. The “ICCVAM Test Method Evaluation Report on In vitro test methods for detecting ocular corrosives and severe irritants”. Website:  
[http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/ocutox/ivocutox/ocu\\_tmer.htm](http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/ocutox/ivocutox/ocu_tmer.htm)
4. EC (2004). Manual of Decisions for Implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Amendments to Directive 67/548/EEC on Dangerous Substances. Updated version of July 2004. 189pp.

Ispira, Italy: European Chemicals Bureau, European Commission JRC. Website:  
[http://ecb.jrc.it/DOCUMENTS/New-Chemicals/Manual\\_of\\_decisions.pdf](http://ecb.jrc.it/DOCUMENTS/New-Chemicals/Manual_of_decisions.pdf)