



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE  
Institute for Health and Consumer Protection  
**In-Vitro Methods Unit**  
**European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM)**

### **ESAC Statement on the Performance Standards (PSs) for the Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA)**

At its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 4-5<sup>th</sup> November 2008, at the European Commission in Brussels, the non-Commission members of the ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) unanimously endorsed the following statement:

Performance Standards based on validated test methods are used to assess the accuracy and reliability of new similar test methods (“me-too” tests) and of modified versions of the validated reference method.

ECVAM developed Performance Standards for the LLNA in compliance with the criteria described in the OECD GD 34 (1). These set out the three main elements of Performance Standards:

- a) the essential test method components;
- b) a minimum list of reference chemicals; and
- c) accuracy and reliability values.

The original ECVAM Performance Standards for the LLNA, released on occasion of the ESAC 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, underwent a series of revisions in the framework of an extensive ECVAM-ICCVAM collaboration aiming at the harmonisation of the Performance Standards for the LLNA developed independently by ECVAM and ICCVAM. As a result of this process both the ECVAM (2) and the ICCVAM Performance Standards for the LLNA (3) are now harmonised with respect to the above given three main elements.

Having carefully considered these ECVAM harmonised Performance Standards for the LLNA (2) as made available on the ECVAM web-site, ESAC concluded and advised that:

- 1) The essential test method components are adequate and sufficiently detailed to allow the assessment of the similarity of the proposed test methods with respect to the validated LLNA.
- 2) The minimum list of reference chemicals contains an adequate number of reference substances and the selection of the substances took into consideration all the relevant criteria (range of responses in the validated test, physical state, availability of reference LLNA, Guinea Pig and human data, etc.).
- 3) The performance criteria set for establishing the reliability and accuracy of the proposed test method when challenged with the reference chemicals are appropriate and adequate.

The resulting ECVAM harmonised Performance Standards for the LLNA can now be used to assess the validity of proposed test methods that are functionally and mechanistically similar to the traditional LLNA.

This endorsement takes account of the deliberations of the ESAC Peer Review Panel, the deliberations of the ICCVAM Peer Review Panel (4) and the outcome of the ECVAM International Meeting on the Harmonisation of the Performance Standards for the LLNA.

Joachim Kreysa  
Head of Unit  
In-Vitro Toxicology Unit  
European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods

5<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## References

1. OECD (2005). *OECD guidance document on the validation and international acceptance of new or updated test methods for hazard assessment. OECD series on testing and assessment Nr. 34.*
2. *ECVAM Performance Standards for the LLNA (2008).* Available: <http://ecvam.jrc.it>
3. ICCVAM. 2008. *Recommended Performance Standards: Murine Local Lymph Node Assay.* Research Triangle Park, NC: National Toxicology Program. Available: [http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/immunotox\\_docs/LLNA-PS.pdf](http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/immunotox_docs/LLNA-PS.pdf)
4. ICCVAM. 2008. *Independent Scientific Peer Review Panel Report. Validation Status of New Versions and Applications of the Murine Local Lymph Node Assay: A Test Method for Assessing the Allergic Contact Dermatitis Potential of Chemicals and Products.* Research Triangle Park, NC: National Toxicology Program. Available: [http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/immunotox\\_docs/LLNAPRPRept2008.pdf](http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/docs/immunotox_docs/LLNAPRPRept2008.pdf).

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

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

Ms Sonja Beken (Belgium)  
Mr Albert Breier (Slovakia)  
Ms Maija Dambrova (Latvia)  
Ms Katalin Horvath (Hungary)  
Ms Dagmar Jírová (Czech Republic)  
Mr Roman Kolar (Eurogroup for Animals)  
Ms Elisabeth Knudsen (Denmark) #  
Mr Manfred Liebsch (Germany)  
Mr Lionel Larue (France) #  
Mr Gianni Dal Negro (EFPIA)  
Mr Efstathios Nikolaidis (Greece)  
Mr Constantin Mircioiu (Romania)  
Mr. Walter Pfaller (Austria; moderator)  
Mr Jon Richmond (UK)  
Ms Vera Rogiers (ECOPA)  
Mr Hasso Seibert (ESF)  
Mr Dariusz Słodowski (Poland)  
Mr Jan van der Valk (The Netherlands)  
Mr Carl Westmoreland (COLIPA)  
Mr Timo Ylikomi (Finland)

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

Ms Elke Anklam (IHCP; chairman)  
Mr Joachim Kreysa (ECVAM)  
Mr Jürgen Büsing (DG RTD) #  
Ms Silvia Casati (ECVAM, DG JRC)  
Mr Thomas Cole (ECVAM, DG JRC, ESAC secretary)  
Ms Laura Gribaldo (ECVAM, DG JRC)  
Mr Claudius Griesinger (ECVAM, DG JRC)  
Ms Eimear Kelleher (IHCP)  
Ms Karin Kilian (DG SANCO)  
Ms Barbara Mentré (DG ENTR) #  
Ms Pilar Prieto (ECVAM, DG JRC)  
Mr Juan Riego Sintés (CPSQ, DG JRC)  
Ms Sigrid Weiland  
Ms Valérie Zuang (ECVAM, DG JRC)  
Mr Patric Amcoff (OECD)  
Mr Hajime Kojima (JaCVAM)  
Mr William Stokes (NICEATM)  
Mr Raymond Tice (NICEATM)  
Ms Marilyn Wind (ICCVAM)