



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
C7 - Risk assessment

**INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP
OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES
(ICCG)**

Position Statement

“Alternatives to animal tests”

Adopted by the ICCG
during the ICCG meeting of 3 July 2006
after consultation of each of the non-food Scientific Committees

ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTS

Periodically, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP), on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) and on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) are requested to give advice concerning alternative methods to animal testing in relation to safety assessment.

The Committees have frequently identified substantial limitations when assessing alternative methods that they have been asked to consider.

The three Committees recognise that their primary responsibility is to contribute to the attainment of a high level of public health and environmental protection through the provision of scientifically based risk assessments. The Committees fully encourage the continued development of improved risk assessment methodologies. To be clear, when validated as being as effective as currently accepted methods for safety assessment, alternative methods should be used to replace, reduce or refine animal experimentation.

It is, therefore, important to note that any critical concerns of the Scientific Committees on the validity of 3R-alternatives (Replace, Reduce, Refine) and non-animal tests should not be interpreted as reflecting opposition to the implementation of alternatives to animal experimentation as a matter of principle.

Relevant opinions

SCCNFP [Memorandum](#) concerning “The Actual Status of Alternative Methods to the Use of Animals in the Safety Testing of Cosmetic Ingredients”, adopted by the SCCNFP during the 20th plenary meeting of 4 June 2002.

SCTEE [Opinion](#) on the BUAV-ECEAE report on “The way forward - action to end animal toxicity testing”, adopted by the SCSTEE during the 41st plenary meeting of 8 January 2004.

SCCNFP [Opinion](#) concerning the “Report for Establishing the Timetable for Phasing out Animal Testing for the purpose of the Cosmetics Directive” issued by ECVAM (30/04/2004), adopted on 1 July 2004 by means of the written procedure.

SCHER [Opinion](#) on “Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals: a Non-animal Testing Approach” (BUAV report - 2004), adopted by the SCHER during the 8th plenary meeting of 25 November 2005.

Acknowledgements

Members of the Inter Committee Coordination Group are acknowledged for their valuable contribution to this position statement. The members are Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees:

Prof. J. Bridges, Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR)

Prof. H Greim, Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)

Dr. B. Jansson, Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)

Dr. W. de Jong, Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR)

Prof. T. Sanner, Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP)

Dr. J. Tarazona, Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)

Prof. P. Hartemann, Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR)

Prof. V. M. Rogiers, Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP)

Dr. I. White, Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP)