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Final Report of the OECD Workshop on Harmonisation of Validation and Acceptance Criteria for Alternative to Toxicological Test Methods

In October 1994, the 5th Meeting of the National Co-ordinators of the OECD Test Guidelines Programme agreed that an attempt should be made to internationally harmonize the various published and advocated concepts for the validation of alternative test methods. Considering the international debate on the issue, it was considered timely for the OECD to step in and provide a platform for all parties involved through which it might be possible to reach international consensus on validation and acceptance criteria. The National Co-ordinators emphasized that existing proposals should be used as the basis for an internationally acceptable approach, rather than to develop yet another concept. In this respect, the work of centers such as CAAT in the US (the Johns Hopkins University Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing), ECVAM (European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods) in the European Union, ERGATT (European Research Group for Alternatives to Animal Testing) and various national centers and committees such as the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) in the UK, the Inter Regulatory Advisory Group (IRAG) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) in the US, the National Centre for Alternatives (NCA) in the Netherlands, the Swiss Institute for Alternatives to Animal Testing (SIAT) in Switzerland and the Center for Documentation and Validation of Alternatives to Animal Experiments (ZEBET) in Germany was well-recognised.

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