

11.0 Practical Considerations

Several issues in addition to performance evaluations must be taken into account when assessing the practicality of an alternative test method in comparison to the existing test method:

- Assessments of the laboratory equipment and supplies needed to conduct the alternative test method
- Level of personnel training
- Labor costs
- Time required to complete the test method

The time, personnel cost, and effort required to conduct the proposed test method(s) must be considered reasonable in comparison to those of the test method it is intended to replace.

11.1 Transferability of the rLLNA

Test method transferability addresses the ability of a method to be performed accurately and reliably by multiple laboratories (ICCVAM 2003), including those experienced in the particular type of procedure as well as laboratories with less or no experience in the particular procedure. The degree of transferability of a test method can be evaluated by its interlaboratory reproducibility. **Section 7.0** discusses the minimum variability expected. The transferability of the rLLNA is equal to that of the traditional LLNA (ICCVAM 1999), which includes considerations for the required facilities, major fixed equipment, and any other necessary supplies.

11.2 rLLNA Training Considerations

The level of training and expertise needed to conduct the rLLNA, and the training requirements needed to demonstrate proficiency, are identical to that for the traditional LLNA (ICCVAM 1999).

11.3 Cost Considerations

The rLLNA uses the same basic protocol as the traditional LLNA. However, because fewer animals are tested, the related test costs (e.g., animal care, radioactivity, scintillation fluid, etc.) would be expected to be proportionally lower than the traditional LLNA.

11.4 Time Considerations

Because at least 40% fewer animals are tested in the rLLNA than in the traditional LLNA, the overall time required to conduct the method (e.g., dosing mice, removing the auricular lymph nodes from the animals) would be expected to decrease proportionally.