

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000704

OUTCOME: 7 – Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

Topic: Animal Testing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rhiannon, Lee

Question:

NICNAS has the ability to waive certain information requirements where the introducer can provide alternative non-animal tested data, such as from computer models or from previous animal testing or other validated non-animal tests.

Is NICNAS encouraging introducers to seek that alternative validated data – in the spirit of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement in animal testing)

Answer:

The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) has published specific guidance for introducers (manufacturers and importers of industrial chemicals) on its website regarding the issue of animal testing in the assessment of cosmetic ingredients (including how to apply for a variation to the scheduled data requirements):

<http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/issues/animal-testing-and-cosmetics/data-requirements-and-animal-testing-for-new-cosmetic-ingredients>

NICNAS also has specific guidance on its website related to the endpoints for which validated non-animal tests (skin and eye irritation) currently exist. The NICNAS guidance refers introducers to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) test guidelines for eye and skin irritation, which include a requirement to consider all other available data before conducting an animal test. For example, the OECD TG 405 for acute eye irritation/corrosion includes the following:

In the interest of both sound science and animal welfare, in vivo testing should not be considered until all available data relevant to the potential eye corrosivity/irritation of the substance have been evaluated in a weight-of-the-evidence analysis. Such data include evidence from existing studies in humans and/or laboratory animals, evidence of eye corrosivity/irritation of one or more structurally related substances or mixtures of such substances, data demonstrating high acidity or alkalinity of the substance, and results from validated and accepted in vitro or ex vivo tests for skin corrosion and eye corrosion/irritation.