

***OECD Perspectives on Testing and
Assessment***
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- **Intergovernmental Organisation**
- **30 industrialised countries**
 - **North America**
 - **Europe**
 - **Asia/Pacific Region**
- **Observers from several countries with special status at the OECD**
- **Invited experts: industry, NGO, trade unions**

OECD ROLE

- **Discuss issues of mutual concern**
- **Work together to respond to international problems**
- **Co-ordinate and harmonise policies and tools**
- **Adopt legal instruments**

(All stakeholders involved)

Chemicals Programme objectives

- **Develop high quality harmonized tools and policies for risk assessment and management**
- **Avoid duplication of work**
- **Facilitate work sharing**
- **Save time and money**
- **Avoid non-tariff trade barriers**

Hazard Assessment Tools (1)

- **In vivo/In vitro tests**
- **Structure/Activity Relationships (Principles for validation Nov. 2004, guidance document, case studies)**
- **Read Across and Categories (Manual for Existing Chemicals)**
- **Toxicogenomics (plan to improve link between fundamental research and regulatory use)**

Hazard Assessment Tools (2)

- **Initial discussions have begun on the use of integrated approaches to testing and assessment;**
- **Strong support from industry and some member countries, i.e. for pesticides;**
- **Need a better understanding of what integrated approach means to different groups;**
- **Is it a paradigm shift and revamp of overall approach to information requirements or subtle changes to existing approaches;**

Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD)

- **Test Guidelines and Good Laboratory Practices** are core elements of MAD
- Tests accepted by all OECD countries
- Council Decisions
- US \$50-60 million saved each year
- Work with non-members

Test Guidelines

- **Physical Chemical Properties (21)**
- **Effects on Biotic Systems (21)**
- **Degradation and Accumulation (12)**
- **Health Effects (48)**

Requirements for new/revised TGs

New and updated TGs should

- **improve risk management in countries and/or**
- **lead to a further reduction of animal use and improvements in animal welfare (widespread support and endorsement of the principle of the 3Rs)**

ACSA Initiative

- **Fits the rationale for developing new tests or revising existing tests**
- **Has benefits for industry, regulators, animal usage**
- **Based on robust science, but validation could be complex;**
- **Consistent with OECD discussions on more integrated approaches to testing and assessment;**
- **Performance of tests and testing strategy will be pivotal to international regulatory acceptance;**

Current Discussions on Refocusing the Test Guideline Programme

- **Simplify and streamline the process for new project proposals**
- **Transparent process to assist countries in decision-making for proposals for new or revised Test Guidelines: prior information on**
 - **Regulatory needs**
 - **Limitations**
 - **Resources**

Summary (1)

- **A large number of projects are underway in the OECD Test Guidelines Programme;**
- **These are conducted to meet the regulatory needs of the member countries and to bring a high level of harmonization in testing approaches;**
- **An integrated approach to testing and assessment is being discussed within the OECD;**

Summary (2)

- **Views of member countries, industry, NGOs and EC will be presented in Feb 06;**
- **The OECD needs to think about where this approach should be heading and what it hopes to deliver;**
- **ACSA initiative is one area of interest for the OECD;**
- **Any changes in testing approaches must meet the regulatory needs of member countries.**