

The ECVAM database service on alternative methods to animal experimentation (DB-ALM) – *now online*

The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) has launched on the Internet its entire DataBase service on ALternative Methods to animal experimentation (DB-ALM) to which open access is provided. ECVAM belongs to the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP) of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

DB-ALM owes its origin to a Communication from the European Commission to Council and European Parliament SEC (91)1794.

The service shall provide scientists, authorities and also non-experts with *factual* information presented as evaluated data-sheets (ready-to-use information) on various aspects of advanced and alternative techniques for toxicology assessments. The information made available by DB-ALM includes *method-summary descriptions* and *protocols for their performance (INVITTOX Protocols)*, *evaluation studies*, *details on formal validation studies* and *individual test results*. The registration to the service allows the consultation of the entire contents free of charge.

The DB-ALM replaces the Scientific Information Service (SIS) –online version which could refer to more than 5000 registered users from various countries. ECVAM thanks for the interest shown in this service and hopes to welcome them back to consult DB-ALM at the address:

<http://ecvam-dbalm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>