



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul Helliiker
Director

Gray Davis
Governor
Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

October 21, 2003

WHS 03-08

*[letter revised 8/2/06 to reflect
current approved lab list]*

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVED CHOLINESTERASE TESTING LABORATORIES

Attached is the current list of Laboratories Approved to Perform Cholinesterase Testing for Occupational Health Surveillance, dated October 1, 2003. This revised listing adds two laboratories to the list, U.C. Irvine Medical Center (Orange County) and Salinas Valley Primecare Medical Group (Monterey County). This list is also available on the DPR website at: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ehlb/BioChem/CHE%20LAB%20list.pdf>.

In May 1999, a new regulation (3 CCR 6728) required that only laboratories meeting specific analytical criteria could be used in the medical supervision program. All laboratories analyzing blood cholinesterase (ChE) for the medical supervision program must report the results in the same units. Prior to 1999, different laboratories reported ChE in different units depending on the analytical method used. By reporting in different units, health professionals and regulatory officials were often unable to compare baseline ChE results to illness results, if the blood was analyzed at different laboratories. Since that time, staff from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and Department of Health Services (DHS) with invaluable assistance from Dr. Barry Wilson at UC Davis, have been working with the laboratories to help them comply with the regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions about the list of approved laboratories, please contact Kevin Chao, at the Environmental Health Laboratory Branch, of DHS, at (510) 620-2889. Questions about the regulatory requirements for the laboratories analyzing blood cholinesterase for the medical supervision program should be directed to Marylou Verder-Carlos at (916) 324-4204, or mverder@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

[original signed C. Andrews]

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

Attachment **[See <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ehlb/BioChem/CHE%20LAB%20list.pdf> for current approved laboratory listing.]**

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Kevin Chao, Ph.D., Research Scientist, DHS, (w/o attachment)
Mr. Scott T. Paulsen, Chief, DPR Enforcement Branch, (w/o attachment)
Ms. Marylou Verder-Carlos, WHS Branch, (w/o attachment)
Mr. Daniel J. Merkley, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, (w/o attachment)