Chair: *A. Alderman (Johnson Matthey)*
Co-Chair: *Ken Kloska (Climax Molybdenum)*

28 January 2011, 2-2:30 pm CET

Participants

- A. Alderman (Johnson Matthey)
- C. Braibant (EPMF)
- K. Kloska (Climax Molybdenum)
- M. Husakiewicz (Lipmann Walton)
- K. Rothenbacher (EPMF)
- Ch. Viviers (Heraeus)
- P. Whitehead (WCA)

Minutes

Aim:

WCA to present recommended choice of test houses
Re WG to agree on way forward

Background:

At 3 Dec 2010 Re WG agreed on the proposed testing strategy and asked WCA to revert with a recommended test houses for each test
A proposal was circulated in mid Jan 2011 for consideration by the Re WG (Annex 1)

Recommendation from WCA:

Three labs are recommended. Each one has been allocated different type of studies according to their known expertise/reputation:

- Basic in vitro + skin sensitisation → Harlan
- Mutagenicity assays → Covance (David Kirkland known expert in this field)
- Repeated dose → Charles River

WCA has previous experience with all three of them.
All recommended test houses are based in the UK in order to facilitate study monitoring / communication / follow-up.

Discussion:

Discussion mainly addressed where to place the repeated dose study. This is the most expensive and time consuming test of the Re testing programme, and for which relevant expertise is required over a longer period.

The following aspects were discussed:

- *Experience/expertise:* Only Covance and Charles River have required expertise with this test (but have no experience in conducting this test on metals as such).

- *Cost differential between Charles River and Covance:* ~ 62 000 GBP and ~ 118 000 GBP, respectively. Despite lower cost, quality of Charles River's work and deliverable not questioned. Cost differential may be reduced if Covance applies discount if we grant both mutagenicity work and repeated dose but differential would still be significant.

- *Schedule:*
  - ☞ Charles River and Covance could both start in Q2 (Covance announces a slightly earlier start than Charles River).

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- ☞ The reporting time is the same for both: seven months. Only preliminary results would be available for discussion at Dec 2011 Re WG meeting but not final report.
- ☞ Possibility of placing additional work (PGM) with them could be used as convincing argument for test houses to respect proposed schedule.

Conclusion:

It was agreed to launch all studies in parallel in the following manner:

- *In vitro* eye irritation/corrosion, *in vivo* eye irritation (if required on the basis of the *in vitro* study), and skin sensitisation (LLNA) → Harlan

- *In vitro* mouse lymphoma assay, and *in vitro* micronucleus assay → Covance

- Dose range finding study and combined 28-day repeated dose oral toxicity and reproductive toxicity screen test → cf. action 3 below

Actions:

Table 1. Actions agreed at 28 Jan 2011 Re WG conference call

	Action	**Who?**	**When?**
1.	Launch admin/contractual discussions with Harlan and Covance to allow early start of *in vitro*, sensitisation and mutagenicity tests	WCA and CB	Early Feb 2011
2.	Launch APR sample request for *in vitro*, sensitisation and mutagenicity tests	CB	Early Feb 2011
3.	Meet with Covance and Charles River to discuss dose range finding study and combined 28-day repeated dose oral toxicity and reproductive toxicity screen test in further detail	WCA, A. Alderman and M. Raffray	ASAP in Feb 2011
4.	Formulate recommendation based on outcome of meetings with Covance and Charles River	WCA	ASAP in Feb 2011
5.	Evaluate WCA's recommendation and decide whether to work with Charles River or Covance (in which case a possible discount should be discussed) + hold conference call if questions arise/discussion is needed	Re WG	ASAP in late Feb/early Mar 2011
6.	Launch admin/contractual discussions with Charles River or Covance (including review of costing) to allow start of repeated dose tests in Q2	WCA and CB	ASAP in early Mar 2011
7.	Launch APR sample request for repeated dose test	CB	Early Mar 2011
8.	Follow-up testing programme to ensure availability of *in vitro*, sensitisation and mutagenicity test final results and repeated dose preliminary results for discussion at Dec 2011 Re WG meeting	WCA	Ongoing