



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

May 3, 2007

WHS 07-02

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVED CHOLINESTERASE TESTING LABORATORIES

The current list of Laboratories Approved to Perform Cholinesterase Testing for Occupational Health Surveillance, dated January 1, 2007 is available at the following website: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ehlb/BioChem/SpecialProjects.htm>. There are no changes in the contact persons and no laboratories are either added or deleted since the January 1, 2005 list.

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.

Reasons for a shorter list of ChE labs include: some labs decided not to participate in the comparison studies; some labs could not meet the regulatory requirements for the comparison study results; and some labs are still working on compliance. The laboratories on the new list meet the analytical criteria set forth in 3 CCR 6728.

Since the list of approved laboratories is much shorter, you may want to contact employers in your county to ensure that their medical supervisor uses an approved laboratory to analyze blood cholinesterase.

If you have any questions about the list of approved laboratories, please contact Frank Barley, Ph.D., at the Environmental Health Laboratory Branch, of DHS, at (510) 540-2788. Questions about the regulatory requirements for the laboratories analyzing blood cholinesterase for the medical supervision program should be directed



County Agricultural Commissioners  
May 2, 2007  
Page 2

to Dr. Marylou Verder-Carlos of the Worker Health and Safety (WH&S) Branch, at  
(916) 324-4204, or [mverder@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:mverder@cdpr.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

[ORIGINAL Signed by C. M. 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.**]

cc: Frank Barley, Ph.D., Research Scientist, DHS  
Mr. Scott T. Paulsen, Chief, DPR Enforcement Branch  
Dr. Marylou Verder-Carlos, WH&S Branch  
Mr. John M. Donahue, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison