

ANNEX VII

DUTIES AND TASKS OF THE UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY

1. The Union Reference Laboratory referred to in Article 48 is the Commission's Joint Research Centre.
2. The Union Reference Laboratory shall be responsible, in particular, for:
 - (a) coordinating and promoting the development and use of alternatives to procedures including in the areas of basic and applied research and regulatory testing;
 - (b) coordinating the validation of alternative approaches at Union level;
 - (c) acting as a focal point for the exchange of information on the development of alternative approaches;
 - (d) setting up, maintaining and managing public databases and information systems on alternative approaches and their state of development;
 - (e) promoting dialogue between legislators, regulators, and all relevant stakeholders, in particular, industry, biomedical scientists, consumer organisations and animal-welfare groups, with a view to the development, validation, regulatory acceptance, international recognition, and application of alternative approaches.
3. The Union Reference Laboratory shall participate in the validation of alternative approaches.