Risk assessment for the soil environment

NERI

The Department of Terrestrial Ecology at the Danish National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) include a Contract Research Organization offering a suite of ISO and OECD field and laboratory tests needed in risk assessment for the soil environment. All tests are performed in compliance with Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). Our test programme includes earthworms, collembolans, enchytraeids, mites, organic matter decomposition and plants. We offer close co-operation with clients, and deliver scientifically based reporting and interpretation of data. Our tests have been developed and refined during several years of R&D programme activities. In-house risk assessors and taxonomical and ecological expertise support the conduction and reporting of test results.

Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

GLP is a comprehensive quality assurance system based on guidelines made by the OECD Environment activities (www.OECD.org). Chemicals must be tested according to these standards in any of the OECD member countries, and even non-OECD countries should follow these standards when delivering studies to OECD countries. The requirement to perform assessment of chemicals according to GLP is legally binding for OECD member countries including EU, North America and several other countries.

Organisation

The GLP Unit is an integrated part of the Department of Terrestrial Ecology benefiting from the wide expertise of the 40 member staff including risk assessors and ecotoxicologists with international expertise in the areas of soil ecology, plant ecology, ecological modelling and ecological risk assessment. The GLP Unit is supervised by a Quality Assurance (QA) staff trained to perform QA of field and laboratory studies .

Staff qualifications

Apart from standard GLP requirements to include only experienced and GLP trained personnel in GLP studies, research activities underpin our testing procedures (SOP's), study plans, and final reports. The extensive ecotoxicological research activities within the Department of Terrestrial Ecology comprising biomarkers, population modelling, studies of ecosystems under stress impact and submission of new tests for the OECD Guidelines programme provide an essential foundation for the delivery of quality studies. The technical staff involved in GLP testing has undergone external evaluations to certify their skills in species identification of earthworms and Collembola. The scientific personnel possess Ph.D. degrees and have extensive experience with the organisms we offer in our testing programme. Study directors have documented management and GLP qualifications needed for a professional conduct of the studies.

Collaborative approach

We keep a high level of communication with the client and principal investigators. The efficiency is optionally even more rationalized by using collaborative web systems to display all project documents and communication for efficient and transparent project overview. This gives the study monitor and sponsor full control over the crucial parts of the study, where their involvement and expertise is essential for the successful conduct of a study.

The testing programme

Our testing programme include

- Collembola (reproduction)
- Enchytraeus sp. (reproduction)
- Earthworms (reproduction)
- Mite (single and two species test)
- Plant tests (OECD 208)
- Nitrogen Transformation (OECD 216)
- Mesocosm (multi-species test systems)
- Field litterbag studies
- Field population studies

All tests are performed according to ISO or OECD standards.

Other services

We provide full ecotoxicological fate and effects studies of substances including GMO material and waste products on request by industry and governmental authorities. Studies may be performed solely as literature studies. We can act as project managers for research based projects that optionally may include GLP studies.

Further Information

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