

Appendix C

Acronyms and Glossary of Terms

List of Acronyms

AIDS	—acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CDC	—Centers for Disease Control (PHS, DHHS)
DHHS	—U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
DNA	—deoxyribonucleic acid
DOL	—U.S. Department of Labor
EEO	—equal employment opportunity
EKG	—electrocardiogram
G-6-PD	—glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
HIV	—human immunodeficiency virus
HR	—human resources
NIOSH	—National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC, PHS, DHHS)
OSHA	—Occupational Safety and Health Administration (DOL)
OTA	—Office of Technology Assessment
PHS	—U.S. Public Health Service (DHHS)
SIC	—standard industrial code
SRBI	—Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas, Inc.

Glossary of Terms

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome: The most severe clinical manifestation of immune dysfunction caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Biochemical genetics: The analysis of mutant genes on the basis of altered proteins or metabolites.

Chromosome: A threadlike structure that carries genetic information arranged in a linear sequence. In humans, it consists of a complex of nucleic acids and proteins.

Cytogenetics: The study of the relationship of the microscopic appearance of the chromosomes and their

behavior to the genotype and phenotype of the individual.

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA): The molecule that encodes genetic information. DNA is a double-stranded helix held together by weak bonds between base pairs of nucleotides.

DNA: See *deoxyribonucleic acid*.

Genetic monitoring: Involves periodically examining employees to evaluate modifications of their genetic material—e.g., chromosomal damage or evidence of increased occurrence of molecular mutations—that may have evolved in the course of employment. It ascertains whether the genetic material of the group of individuals has altered over time.

Genetic screening: A process to examine the genetic makeup of employees or job applicants for certain inherited characteristics. It can be used to detect occupationally and nonoccupationally related traits.

Genetic testing: Technologies that determine a person's genetic makeup or that identify changes (damage) in the genetic material of certain cells. As used in the workplace, it encompasses both genetic monitoring and screening.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV): A retrovirus that is the etiologic agent of AIDS.

Mutagen/mutagenicity: A substance capable of inducing a heritable change in the genetic material of cells.

Reliability: Measured by the ability of a test to accurately detect that which it was designed to detect and to do so in a consistent fashion.

Trait: A distinguishing feature; a characteristic or property of an individual.

Validity: The extent to which a test will correctly classify true susceptible and true nonsusceptible individuals; sensitivity and specificity are components of validity.