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Regulation of Nanomaterials: Issues and Facts

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While the applications of nanotechnology are increasing by leaps and bounds their regulatory issues are gaining importances proportionately. Nanotechnology is concerned with the production of materials which have at least one dimension below 100 nm. Nevertheless, the definition of nanomaterials has been a matter of discussion since its inception. As the regulatory frame work of different countries is slightly different from each other various organizations and regulatory systems worldwide are attempting to harmonize the definition of nanomaterials. The leading organizations which modulates the nanomaterials are Federal Food Drug Administration and European Directive with the main aim of safeguarding the public health from unknown hazards of nanomaterials. Three guidance documents related to applications, effects and safety of nanomaterials have been published by FDA. This paper proposes the areas where there is an urgent need of attention. These include standardized test materials, specific safety protocol, control over nanoparticle contamination, efficient characterization method etc.