



Position Statement

AkzoNobel
Tomorrow's Answers Today

Animal Testing

For ethical and legal reasons we are obliged to test new compounds to ensure they are effective, reliable and safe. At present experiments on living animals are still a necessary part of the development and regulatory approval process for new and existing chemicals. At the same time, we recognize the intrinsic value of all animals and we acknowledge that experiments on living animals are a source of major concern. While we will be unable to replace all animal experiments in the foreseeable future, AkzoNobel supports and applies the principle of the 3 Rs: to **Replace**, **Reduce** and **Refine** animal experiments.

In particular:

- AkzoNobel recognises that the occupational safety and health of its employees, the environment and the well-being of its customers and eventual consumers, as well as the public as a whole, demand that any potentially harmful characteristics and effects of its products are identified. In addition, national and international legislation often requires that any potential effects of the industry's products on living systems be established. AkzoNobel only uses animal testing however when it is absolutely necessary to protect people or the environment or when required by regulation around the world.
- AkzoNobel does not have its own animal testing facilities; it commissions tests only at facilities which are fully approved by the regulators and which operate to very high standards.
- AkzoNobel supports all attempts to reduce the use of animals in testing and is actively involved in using and developing alternative methodologies. We support the use of validated alternative tests as a means of minimising the number of animals used for hazard assessment of chemicals. We would like to see many more alternative tests available, but international acceptance and validation is a long and laborious process.
- Most AkzoNobel businesses are using non-animal testing, particularly in product development. Regulators do not currently generally accept alternative techniques and only a few are recognised internationally as acceptable alternatives, which means their application is largely confined to product screening.
- Since there are few alternative tests which have so far been validated and accepted for international use, the limited number of alternative tests accepted by regulators does not offer any immediate solution to pressure from the EU Chemicals Policy Review (REACH) and elsewhere for increased assurance of public safety from exposure to chemicals. AkzoNobel participates in REACH testing consortia with industry peers to prevent unnecessary animal testing by reiteration.
- AkzoNobel does not commission tests for finished cosmetics and toiletries on animals – where possible clinical tests with human volunteers are used and the process is subject to the highest ethical standards.
- AkzoNobel understands public concern on this issue and listens to and discusses this with all those who express their concerns in a reasonable and lawful manner.