



Position Statement

AkzoNobel
Tomorrow's Answers Today

Nanotechnology

The design and use of nanomaterials is leading to new technologies that have the potential to help answer the world's toughest environmental and health challenges like climate and energy conservation and access to drinking water. Also in the field of coatings nanotechnology offers exciting opportunities for products with improved functionality. Therefore AkzoNobel supports the responsible development and use of nanotechnology, but as with all technologies it is necessary to assess both the benefits and the risks of the technology.

In assessing the risks, it should be borne in mind that small scale structures have been in safe use in products produced by the chemical industry for decades (e.g. paints and catalysts). We believe that the existing methodologies for risk assessment and management that are adopted by the chemical industry, provide a suitable framework for the sustainable development of nanotechnologies. AkzoNobel has taken the following steps to ensure responsible development and use of nanotechnology in its business:

- We stringently examine all new compounds and products for any potential risk and take all necessary measures to protect employees, customers, the general public and the environment.
- We ensure that all of the materials we work with comply with legal requirements for toxicology testing and chemical registration.
- In keeping with good SSHE practice we ensure that from R&D to manufacturing we take appropriate steps when handling nanomaterials to minimize exposure to the materials through the use of extensive controls.
- In keeping with standard practice for all products, finished products that contain nanomaterials dispersed in bulk liquid or solid media are subject to extensive product stewardship practices to ensure extensive information can be provided to customers about the safe transport, storage, use, processing and disposal of the products.
- AkzoNobel has representation on the Industrial Advisory Board of the Institute of Nanotechnology and benefits from leading edge thinking in the responsible development and use of nanotechnology from colleagues in industry, academia, government and regulatory bodies.

AkzoNobel's position on the responsible development and use of nanotechnology is in line with that of major industry bodies such as CEFIC. You can find CEFIC's Position on Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies [here](#).