

Position statement

Animal testing

As a leading manufacturer of paints, coatings and specialty chemicals, AkzoNobel considers the safeguarding of our workforce, customers/users of our products and the environment to be of paramount importance. Ensuring such protection requires that we fully understand the potential hazards of our raw materials, intermediates and final products.

The use of animal testing is often required by government regulations, especially for new substances. This is because in many cases, the only way to adequately predict potential hazard is by undertaking studies with vertebrate animals. Wherever possible, rigorous assessment of available data is undertaken to avoid any new testing. AkzoNobel does not carry out vertebrate animal testing on finished products such as coatings, paints, chemical mixtures, apart from exceptional cases where it is required by law and no other assessments are deemed sufficient by the respective authorities.

When animal testing is required AkzoNobel fully supports and applies the principles of the 3Rs: to Replace, Reduce and Refine animal experiments. In order to minimize testing that involves vertebrate animals, we have convened a group of company technical specialists, the Animal Testing Review Team (ATRT), under the leadership of the Senior Manager, Product Stewardship and Regulatory Affairs, to evaluate all such testing proposals prior to the commissioning of the study. The group has the remit to assess firstly the suitability of the test protocol, and to determine the suitability of other techniques. In cases where the study is stipulated by government regulations the animal testing group would seek to determine if alternative approaches may be possible. AkzoNobel does not operate any mammalian toxicity testing laboratories.

AkzoNobel will continue with its strategy of minimizing animal testing by supporting international groups employed in developing either non-animal testing or animal reduction testing protocols and will continue a dialogue with institutes and regulatory bodies requiring animal testing.
