Unilever’s position on: Alternative approaches to animal testing

We do not test on animals and believe that animal testing is not needed to make sure that our products are safe for people to use and safe for our planet. We use leading edge safety science, not animals, to evaluate the safety of our products and ingredients for consumers, our workers and the environment. We pro-actively share our non-animal safety approaches with others, collaborating with partners across the world to help bring about an end to animal testing for consumer products, now and in the future. That’s why we also develop and advance the use of ‘next generation’ safety assessment approaches, based on modern science, that do not rely on new animal data (for details see: Safety & Environmental Sciences | Unilever).

As part of our commitment to ending animal testing globally, a growing number of our brands ensure that their products and ingredients are not tested on animals by Unilever, by our suppliers, or by regulatory authorities anywhere in the world. These brands’ commitment to no animal testing is certified by global animal protection groups.

Occasionally, across Unilever’s broader portfolio of brands, some ingredients that we use must still be tested by suppliers by law, to comply with regulatory requirements in some markets; and some government authorities test certain products on animals as part of their regulations. However, we do not agree that animal testing is necessary to assure the safety of our ingredients and products. For more than 40 years, we have worked to secure the adoption of innovative non-animal approaches based on advances in science and technology. As a result, we are recognised by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) as a ‘company working for regulatory change’ (Companies Working for Regulatory Change | PETA).

Our leading-edge safety science approach has one clear purpose: to continue to develop and use non-animal approaches, and let others know about the research we do to guarantee that our products are safe without the need for animal testing. Our team of internationally recognised leaders in non-animal safety science partner with other scientists to continually update the approaches we use to assure the safety of our products.

We partner with our ingredient suppliers to share our non-animal safety science, and our Responsible Partner Policy (Business integrity | Unilever) outlines the requirements of all our suppliers related to animal testing. We also work with NGOs and regulatory authorities around the world to share our approaches, to promote their broader acceptance and maximise the impact of our science in replacing animal testing.

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