



Cosmetics and animal testing: the facts

Animal testing is a highly sensitive subject, particularly when it comes to cosmetics. Much of the information you receive about this subject is difficult to understand and sometimes misleading. So we at Colipa (the European Cosmetics Association) have put together this information sheet. We want to give you some important facts about cosmetics and animal testing and to explain how we, as an industry, are working to develop alternative testing methods.

Did you know that...

- **Cosmetic products are indispensable for daily hygiene and well-being.** Shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, sun protection cream, lipstick, moisturiser or perfume, all are essential contributors for our health, comfort and quality of life.
- **Over five billion units of cosmetic products are sold every year in the European Union.** The cosmetics industry represents an important economic sector with several thousand companies, and direct and indirect employment of more than 500,000 people.
- **Product safety is the industry's top priority.** Every cosmetic product placed on the European market must be safe. All ingredients used in cosmetic products are subject to European legislation that guarantees the safety of the consumers who use them and the workers who make them.
- **Globally, the cosmetics industry is the pioneer in researching alternative approaches to animal testing.** The industry has been researching alternative approaches for decades. The European cosmetics industry stopped animal testing on finished cosmetic products in the 1980s, long before the official European ban in 2004. Furthermore, our industry significantly contributed to the development and validation of all alternative methods available today to test ingredients.
- **Legislation has abolished animal testing in Europe to meet the purposes of the Cosmetics Directive.** Indeed the vast majority of today's safety assessments build on work previously conducted or use modern non-animal methods. In rare cases, the required safety assessment for cosmetic ingredients cannot be satisfied because validated alternative methods are not yet available. If the necessary safety information is not available from other accepted sources, the ingredient cannot be used.



■ **Our industry believes that ending animal testing is a benefit for all: consumers, animal welfare and industry.** Therefore, the European cosmetics industry continues to work on developing further alternative safety tests. We are conducting research in order to replace animal testing methods for all ingredients with properly researched and validated alternatives. Most recently, the European cosmetics industry agreed to co-fund one of the largest research opportunities in the development of alternative methods, together with the European Commission, via a Call for Proposals under the EU's 7th Framework Programme.



■ **The cosmetics industry is united in its commitment to validated alternative methods.** We work at an international level to increase the validation and acceptance of alternative methods. These efforts are enhanced via collaboration by cosmetic associations and regulatory bodies such as the ICCR (International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation) and ICATM (Framework for International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods). These include as well academic bodies, industry regulators (such as the European Commission) and other industry sectors.



■ **The cosmetics industry voluntarily took a leading role in the advancement of alternative methods.** We were a founding member of the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA), a joint initiative by the European Commission, European trade associations from seven industry sectors and individual companies.



■ **Developing alternatives is a tremendous scientific challenge.** We don't always know how long it will take to find an alternative method or approach that will address all the relevant safety issues. There are still gaps in scientific knowledge that must be addressed before we can replace animal testing completely.

■ **Alternative methods must go through an internationally recognised validation process before being officially approved.** The cosmetics industry works with relevant national and international bodies to conduct validation projects for alternative testing methods. We are closely involved with efforts to speed up this process and replace animal testing more quickly.

■ **Many of the advances in alternative approaches driven by the cosmetics industry have been adopted by other industries.** Other sectors that use animal testing, such as pharmaceuticals and chemicals, have seen the benefits of the research into alternative methods we have been doing in co-operation with academics and other industry partners, and now use many of these methods.



More information about alternatives can be found on our website: www.colipa.eu.

For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Colipa at: colipa@colipa.be.

