



Factsheets on Animal Testing- NATRUE position:

“Crucially, animal testing is fundamentally against NATRUE’s underlying values and ethics; a statement that has been included directly into the NATRUE standard⁵. Many naturally occurring substances (without chemical modification) are exempted from registration under EU legislation (REACH), and do not therefore need to be tested on animals”.

Dr. Mark Smith – NATRUE’s Regulatory and Scientific Manager

“NATRUE believes by promoting products with natural and organic ingredients, and the preferred use of natural substances, an approach which contributes towards the reduction and avoidance of animal testing. NATRUE members choose to use many high quality natural and organic ingredients, which have a long history of safe use. Globally there is a shift towards the use of alternatives to animal testing in the cosmetic sector and this is a trend which NATRUE definitely supports”

Klara Ahlers – NATRUE’s President

What is the history of the EU animal test ban?

Phasing out of animal testing began with the initial legal framework in 2003 (7th amendment to the EU Cosmetics Directive (76/768 EEC)). From July 2013 the Cosmetics Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009) replaced the previous directive¹.

The Cosmetics Regulation:

- Enforces a full marketing ban of finished products and ingredients tested on animals
- Prohibits all animal testing in the EU irrespective of the availability of alternative tests or not².

Impact on other EU legislation as a result of the ban:

- Uncertainty concerning the overlapping but conflicting European legislation regarding the chemical ingredient registration requirements (REACH).
- Recently, the EU Commission with the assistance of ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) has addressed this conflict³.

What is the connection between the EU cosmetics legislation and private standards for natural and organic cosmetics?

All EU cosmetic products must comply first and foremost with the essential EU cosmetics regulatory requirements (e.g. composition, safety, efficacy and labelling and the animal testing ban) independent of the formulation. The EU Cosmetic Regulation is a Europe-wide legal requirement for all cosmetics, and does not discriminate or exclude a natural cosmetic product certified to a private standard (e.g. NATRUE). NATRUE considers the strict provisions of the European Cosmetics Regulation concerning animal testing as forward-looking, which should be mirrored at a global level.

Where additional information can be found?

For additional information on the specific details of the animal testing, and alternatives to animal testing please refer to reference (2), and the NATRUE position papers on animal testing (4).

References

1. DG Grow – Cosmetics Legislation
(http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/cosmetics/legislation/index_en.htm)
2. JRC - Alternatives to animal testing and safety assessment of chemicals
(http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/cosmetics/animal-testing/index_en.htm)
3. ECHA - Clarity on interface between REACH and the Cosmetics Regulation
(http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/clarity-on-interface-between-reach-and-the-cosmetics-regulation)
4. NATRUE – Our Position Papers
(<http://www.natrue.org/about-natrue/>)
5. NATRUE – download section for NATRUE criteria and annexes
(<http://www.natrue.org/meta/downloads/>)