



NATRUE Organization - Statement

Animal Testing and Natural Cosmetic (Personal care) Products?

Testing cosmetics on animals both for safety and/or performance reasons has been subject to heated debate for many years up to the present day.

NATRUE does not support tests of cosmetic products and their ingredients on animals and we believe that effort must be made to avoid the use of animals for cosmetic testing globally. Furthermore, all our members do not perform animal tests on their products or ingredients and do not ask others to test on their behalf unless required by law.

1. Enforcement of the animal testing ban in EU

The NATRUE criteria comply with the European Union (EU legal requirements for cosmetic products) and since the 7th amendment to the Cosmetic Directive (76/768 EEC)¹ was adapted in 2003, long before NATRUE was established, it was apparent that testing of cosmetic products on animals would be prohibited in the EU. Indeed, the testing of finished products has been forbidden in the EU since 11.9.2004 and the testing of the ingredients has been prohibited since 11.3.2009; except for some tests for which no alternative method is currently available. The Cosmetic Directive also requests a marketing ban of finished products and ingredients tested on animals and as of 2013 all animal tests are planned to be prohibited in EU regardless of the availability of alternative tests. The movement towards alternative testing in the cosmetic sector is gradually being adapted globally. For example, the EU cooperates with US, Japan and Canada in a form of International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods (ICATM).

Whereas the Cosmetic Directive prohibits the testing on animals in the EU, another EU Regulation No. 1970/2006 (so called REACH⁵), may request data obtained by animal tests to ensure the safety of chemical substance both for human health and the environment. REACH may affect some ingredients which are derived from natural substances, even if they have a long history of safe use. Therefore, the cosmetic sector as a whole is currently in confusion between two conflicting pieces of legislation in EU.

2. Avoiding confusion among consumers

Although some private standards and manufacturers claim the absence of animal testing on their products, they do not disclose the fact that they use ingredients which have been tested on animals, and/or the use of data resulting from animal testing obtained by others. According to EU commission recommendation of 7 June 2006², the claim of 'no animal testing has been carried out' implies that not only have the manufacturers and their suppliers not performed nor asked others to perform such tests on their behalf, but they also must not use ingredients which have been tested on animals by others for the purpose of developing new



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products. Knowing that virtually all ingredients used in cosmetic products were tested on animals in the past (even non-toxic substances such as water³), setting a cut-off date for animal tests in the criteria (which all others do) is meaningless, especially as according to the EU Commission, 'it does not matter where (inside or outside of the EU) or *when* the tests have been performed'². Furthermore, in some countries, animal tests are still required by law to ensure the safety of the cosmetic products (e.g. China⁴), and thus most of the claims add a clause such as 'unless required by law'. Such a claim is confusing and may mislead consumers who opt for products with the complete absence of animal testing. For the sake of honesty and clarity, it is NATRUE's choice not to include such a claim in the NATRUE criteria.

3. Use of natural ingredients is a part of the solution

As many naturally occurring substances without chemical modification are exempted from REACH and therefore do not need to be tested on animals (Article 3(39)), we believe the preferred use of natural substances is an approach which also contributes towards avoiding animal testing. The NATRUE members (<http://www.natrue.org/about-natrue/our-members-and-our-secretariat/>) are committed to this issue and use many high quality natural ingredients which have a long history of safe use. By promoting products with natural and organic ingredients and supporting the authentic producers of such products, NATRUE contributes to the reduction of animal testing. We also believe in a holistic approach to animal welfare, of which animal testing as a vital part. In fact, animal welfare is one of the core values behind the Natural and Organic cosmetics. By promoting and supporting organic production of our ingredients, we protect wild life. We do not use synthetic chemical substances which may be harmful to human health and to the environment as a whole. When you buy organic products, you are also supporting a sector that brings forth supplementary benefits such as environmental care, increased biodiversity, animal welfare and rural development

NATRUE cares deeply for the well-being of humans, animals and plant habitats in a holistic way and is against animal testing.

References

¹ Directive 2003/15/EC of the European Parliament and of the council of 27 February 2003 amending Council Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:066:0026:0035:en:PDF>)

² Commission Recommendation of 7 June 2006 Establishing guidelines on the use of claims referring to the absence of tests on animals pursuant to Council Directive 76/768/EEC, OJL 158, 10.6.20065

(<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:158:0018:0019:EN:PDF>)



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³Material safety data sheet for water, available online:
<http://www.sciencelab.com/msds.php?msdsId=9927321>

⁴Procedures and methods of safety evaluation for cosmetics, UDC 688.58.001.04 GB 7919-84 (in Chinese).

⁵Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:396:0001:0849:EN:PDF>

About NATRUE

NATRUE is the International Natural and Organic Cosmetics Association and promotes authentic natural and organic cosmetics since October 2007. The NATRUE label sets a high standard of quality and integrity so people worldwide may enjoy natural cosmetics truly worthy of that name. More than 1300 products have already been certified. Discover the NATRUE product world at www.natrue.org and come celebrate Natural Cosmetics with NATRUE on www.facebook.com/NATRUE.