

.Position Statement

Non-Animal Testing Alternatives for Nanomaterials

(This document is a link on Animal Testing Position Statement page.)

DuPont endorses the use of scientifically valid non-animal testing methods for assessing the safety of nanomaterials to human health and the environment. Accordingly, the Nano Risk Framework developed by DuPont and Environmental Defense Fund calls for using scientifically validated alternative methods that reduce, refine or replace the use of animal models in research. DuPont believes that the Nano Risk Framework is designed to minimize animal testing through an iterative safety evaluation approach.

This approach starts with a thorough understanding of the nanomaterial characteristics and behavior and a literature review of the corresponding bulk and nanomaterial properties, followed by the design of technically relevant tests to address specific safety questions for the particular nanomaterial and its designated uses. Nanomaterial test substances must be optimally characterized before conducting any type of safety testing. Non-animal testing alternatives to address these safety questions should be used where they have been shown to be predictive for nanomaterials.

DuPont believes that validated non-animal alternatives such as in vitro assays and computer modeling will become increasingly available and should be used to reduce or replace animal tests for nano products whenever possible. DuPont is actively pursuing several approaches to validate in vitro tests for both fine and nanoscale materials to make them part of our testing program (e.g., substitution of in vitro tests for in vivo skin and eye irritation tests). We will share what we learn with other organizations that may benefit. We encourage other companies to also investigate non-animal test methods, and to share any new developments.

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