

Solvay is committed to safety, innovation, and ethical responsibility in product development. We strive to use testing methodologies that do not involve animals, reserving animal testing as a last resort when required by regulatory standards. All our studies adhere to international guidelines, including those set by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

To ensure ethical practices, Solvay established the Solvay Animal Care and Use Committee (SACUC), which consists of internal and external experts. This committee rigorously reviews all commissioned animal testing activities and evaluates our compliance with regulatory and voluntary commitments to minimize such testing. No animal testing is conducted for cosmetic purposes, and since 2012, Solvay has not commissioned any studies involving dogs, cats, pigs, or primates.

In 2024, we conducted animal tests only to meet mandatory requirements, involving 4,801 vertebrate animals. We actively advocate for data reuse within frameworks such as REACH for other registration systems and joint studies of the same substance are conducted with other manufacturers.

Solvay actively promotes the development of alternative methods to animal studies known as "New approach Methodologies" (NAMs) to reduce the necessity for animal testing. In addition, Solvay is a member of the EPAA (European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing).

Solvay provides innovative products for a wide variety of uses and a large number of users. The Group must have a proper understanding of the hazards of its products in order to carry out our activities and protect users, the general public, Solvay personnel, and the environment. With society continually asking for new, better, and safer chemicals and plastics, there is growing demand from both regulatory authorities and the public for product risk and hazard assessments. These require testing, both with and without the use of animals.

Ethical compliance

Solvay's policy, outlined in the Solvay Animal Care and Use Procedure, is to apply the "3R principles" (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) in each case and to comply with all

applicable regulations. All of our studies comply with international standards, such as Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) guidelines. The AAALAC accreditation is one of our selection criteria for labs performing toxicological studies. For labs performing only ecotoxicological studies (with fish as vertebrates) this is less common. This worldwide organization sets quality standards for testing laboratories and ensures responsible and humane treatment of laboratory animals. Before they start, all studies commissioned by Solvay are subject to an ethical assessment at local or national level by the laboratory conducting the study.

Once a study is underway, Solvay staff monitor the execution and quality of the studies and maintain a continuous qualification and evaluation program for the laboratories. A dedicated Solvay corporate committee reviewed the animal testing activities commissioned by Solvay during 2024, verifying conformity with the principles and mandatory elements of Solvay's Animal Care and Use Procedure.

	Number of studies	Number of vertebrates (*)
Registration obligations (EU, China)	8	2288
Additional product safety questions (toxicity, classification)	5	2513
Total	13	4801

(*) Includes all animals, including control animals not being exposed to test substances and used as reference

Regulatory testing

In 2024, half of the studies were performed for regulatory purposes and half for product safety. EU REACH remains the primary driver (83% of the animals used for regulatory purposes in 2024) although these studies will also be valid for demonstrating compliance with chemical regulation elsewhere in the world). In total, 4,801 vertebrate animals were used. Solvay did not commission any studies on dogs, cats, pigs, or non-human primates. The number of vertebrate animals used in 2024 was at a similar level as previous year with the same scope (without Syensqo).

Drivers for the future

While studies are needed for regulatory and scientific purposes, Solvay continues to strengthen its capabilities and understanding of alternative methodologies that do not involve vertebrate animals. In addition, QSARs and Read-across approaches are applied to avoid new studies on vertebrate animals to be launched.

The higher tier animal studies requested by authorities, which required the largest number of animals in 2024, will continue to be the major driver for animal tests in the near future. However, a priori less studies are foreseen for 2025 and it is therefore expected that the number of animals in 2025 will not increase in comparison with 2024.

Advances in the implementation of non-animal methods and alternative hazard identification strategies are crucial if a reduction of animal use in hazard assessment is to be achieved. For instance, with the upcoming information requirements for endocrine disruptors and aquatic chronic toxicity, more, rather than less, animal testing appears to be required in Europe.