Animal testing

Revision: March 2026

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 2025, we conducted animal tests only to meet mandatory requirements, involving 511 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 2025, 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)	**4**	**511**
Additional product safety questions (toxicity, classification)	**0**	**0**
Total	**4**	**511**

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

Regulatory testing

In 2025, all studies were performed for regulatory purposes. EU REACH remains the primary driver (100% of the animals used for regulatory purposes in 2025) although these studies will also be valid for demonstrating compliance with chemical regulation elsewhere in the world). In total, 511 vertebrate animals were used. Solvay did not commission any studies on dogs, cats, pigs, or non-human primates. In 2025, the use of vertebrate animals decreased compared with 2024, with 4,801

animals reported. This reduction demonstrates ongoing efforts to minimize animal use by refining experimental designs and prioritizing alternatives wherever possible.

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 2025, will continue to be the major driver for animal tests in the near future. Consequently, the number of animals used in 2026 is anticipated to be at a level comparable to, or potentially higher than, that observed in 2025.

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.

SOLVAY

Reducing Animal Testing Through Innovative Safety Science

At Solvay, we are committed to continuously improving the way we assess product safety, with a strong focus on sustainability, innovation, and animal welfare. An important part of this commitment is our effort to replace traditional animal testing wherever scientifically and regulatorily possible.

One example of this approach is our use of **GARD®skin**, a modern in vitro test that helps to assess whether a substance may cause skin allergies without the use of animals. Solvay applied this test in 2025 as part of its ongoing transition toward alternative testing methods that rely on human-relevant science rather than animal studies.

GARD®skin works by observing how human skin-related cells respond to a substance under controlled laboratory conditions. By looking at signals expressed by the cells when they are exposed, the test can identify whether a substance may trigger an allergic reaction. This approach is based on a very innovative and human relevant method, which is the analysis of cells genes expression. It avoids testing on animals while still providing reliable information needed to protect human health. The method is recognized in international guidelines, which means it can be used to support safety and regulatory decisions with confidence.

A key advantage of the GARD®skin test is that it can be used for substances that are often difficult to assess with traditional methods, such as complex materials, metals, or polymers. These substances have historically increased the need for animal testing because suitable alternatives were limited. By using GARD®skin, we are able to evaluate safety more effectively while staying aligned with our sustainability goals.

The test also provides information beyond a simple yes-or-no answer. It helps us understand how strong a potential allergic effect might be and supports the identification of safe exposure levels. This allows us to make informed decisions about risk management and safe use, while further reducing reliance on animal data.

We are actively investing in new scientific approaches. GARD®skin is one example for assessing allergenic potential, but we are also working with models such as MucilAir™ to replace animal inhalation tests, or SkinEthic™ to evaluate skin corrosion. By using innovative methods, Solvay demonstrates its commitment to responsible science, reduced animal testing, and sustainable product stewardship. This approach reflects our broader ambition to combine safety, performance, and sustainability in everything we do.