

# CHEMICALS

*Millions of animals will be used under the EU system for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances (REACH). Existing chemicals as well as new ones will need to be tested, often requiring many animals, for their effects on human health and the environment.*

## BACKGROUND

Under the legislation all information on the testing on animals will need to be submitted by the companies to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) during registration. Companies may be required to perform testing on animals where it has not yet been performed. Under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, companies are obliged to share the data resulting from tests on animals, to ensure there is no duplication of animal testing. Due to the work of Eurogroup, the promotion of alternative test methods is essential.

## CURRENT SITUATION

The application of the REACH Regulation has led to an increase in the number of animals used in testing in the EU. The text does however include a number of provisions intended to lessen its overall impact on animal use: mandatory sharing of animal test data; testing proposals are open to public comments for 45 days. Alternatives to animal testing are strongly promoted throughout the REACH text and animal testing must only be undertaken as a last resort. Eurogroup focuses on following and ensuring these provisions are implemented to their fullest. The REACH annexes are under revision (test methods) and guidance is being developed for various test methods (skin sensitisation, skin and eye irritation). In addition, Nanomaterials will be covered under REACH and therefore there are numerous discussions in various committees taking place on this issue.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- Proper application of the mandatory sharing by companies of animal test data.
- The use of alternative test methods and the funding of the development and validation of alternative methods.
- Evaluation of testing proposals involving animals, through the guidance documents, to minimise their use.

## RELATED LINKS

- [European Chemicals Agency](#)
- [European Commission's Directorate-General Environment page on chemicals](#)
- [European Chemicals Agency \(ECHA\) communication on Cosmetics](#)
- [Refinement method taken up in REACH requirements \(Extended one generation reproductive toxicity testing\)](#)
- [2007 briefing of Eurogroup](#)
- [REACH Regulation](#)
- [Latest report on alternatives](#)