

DSM's position on animal studies

February 2021

DSM is responsible for assuring our products are safe. In many countries around the world it is a strict legal obligation for companies to actively demonstrate the safety, and the safe of use, of their products. For some products, this may involve the use of animal testing.

DSM is committed to do all we can to avoid and limit the use of animal testing. Whenever possible our strict policy is to use validated alternative methods accepted by authorities to avoid animal testing. However, at present some scientific and regulatory authorities still require data from animal studies. Our ultimate goal is to totally eliminate animal testing at DSM. We therefore work towards the validation of alternatives to animal testing.

Why do we conduct safety studies?

DSM has a non-negotiable responsibility to our customers and consumers as well as legal obligations to ensure that all our nutritional ingredients are safe for use. In order to meet international food safety standards and approval demands, some scientific and regulatory authorities still require data from animal studies.

DSM only conducts animal studies when scientifically or legally required to do so and when no viable alternative is yet available. When animal testing is necessary, DSM works exclusively with certified research laboratories adhering to animal welfare rules (e.g. AAALAC-accredited). In parallel we actively monitor and engage in activities that drive the implementation of alternative innovative and scientifically validated approaches. We have applied this stringent company guidance on animal studies for many years.

What is DSM doing to stop animal testing?

DSM's is working to reduce and stop animal testing in three ways. First, we have replaced animal testing with validated alternative methods wherever possible. For example, DSM no longer carries out tests on animals for personal care applications or eye irritation and skin sensitization assessment following the acceptance of alternative in vitro test methods by European authorities in 2016.

Second, we engage with authorities, industry partners and academic institutions in an ongoing effort to replace, reduce and refine (3R) animal testing. For example, DSM is a member of European Partnership on Alternatives to Animal Testing (EPAA), a voluntary collaboration between the European Commission and European industry specialists. As a member, we support the development and validation of alternative methods to replace animal testing.

Third, when animal testing is necessary, we actively monitor and engage in activities that drive the implementation of alternative innovative and scientifically validated alternative approaches. We try to reduce animal testing by using computer modelling and in vitro techniques.