



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT

The Director-General

Brussels,
ENV.A3/K.S/Ares(2015)5018893

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: Banning of testing of finished household products

The Commission takes note of the petition concerning the banning of testing of finished household products.

The Commission currently has no plans to develop an EU-wide ban of animal testing specifically for household products as the current legislation framework in the EU ensures that animal testing is limited to the strict minimum necessary for ensuring public health and safety.

To the best of our knowledge, animal testing is today hardly ever performed on finished household products or detergents.

For new and innovative ingredients which will be used in such products animal testing may be necessary if safety data is lacking and no alternative non-animal test methods are available. Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH)¹ allows testing on animals only as a last resort for the purposes of substance registration, regardless of whether a substance is used in household products or not. According to Article 13 of REACH, information shall be generated whenever possible by means other than animal tests.

In addition, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP)² requires the performance of new tests on animals only for the determination of health and environmental hazards and where all other means of generating information not using animals are exhausted. In any event, tests on non-human primates are prohibited.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Calleja

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32006R1907>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R1272>