

Vertebrate Animal tests

In 2015, Solvay commissioned tests required by regulation, trying every time to minimize the number of animal tests. In terms of number of animals, there is the regulation for chemicals is less demanding than what is required from the pharmaceutical sector to test the efficacy of drugs. This results for Solvay in comparatively much fewer tests than in the pharmaceutical sector.

ANIMAL TESTS COMMISSIONED BY SOLVAY IN 2015

	NUMBER OF TESTS (ON VERTEBRATES)	NUMBER OF VERTEBRATES
Tests to address requests from:		
European authorities	24	6,701
American authorities (North or Latin)	1	210
Tests to verify toxicity, define classification and usage recommendations	24	523
Total	49	7,434

In 2015, 51% of tests carried out on behalf of Solvay (representing 93% of the vertebrate animals) addressed specific requests from authorities, especially European authorities while the remainder (7% of vertebrate animals) were used to address more generic product-related questions.

Solvay did not commission studies on dogs, cats, pigs or non-human primates. In total, 7434 vertebrate animals (60% rats, 2% mice, 2% guinea pigs, 17% rabbits and 19% fish) were used. Relative to 2014, the total number of vertebrate animals used showed a significant increase, i.e. a doubling from 3695 to 7343. The same proportions of rats, mice and guinea pigs were used whereas the proportion of rabbits had increased from 1 to 17% and the proportion of fish decreased from 31 to 19%. The increase use of vertebrate animals was completely attributable to studies addressing specific requests from authorities. The number vertebrates used in studies addressing product information needs to ensure safe use and correct classification remained constant (553 in 2014 vs 523 in 2015).

Compliance

All studies were subject to an ethical assessment. For a responsible and humane use of laboratory animals, Solvay has for long a detailed and dedicated policy on animal use based on the 3Rs. All studies comply with international standards (OECD-guidelines), and care was given to avoid duplication by simultaneously addressing the requirements of several countries or regulations. The Solvay Animal Care and Use Standard was updated in 2015, and will be implemented in 2016.

FOCUS TESTING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REACH

Solvay adheres to the objective as outlined in the REACH regulation, i.e. promoting non-animal testing and the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal testing. For a responsible and humane use of laboratory animals, Solvay has for a long time had a policy on animal use. In 2015, most vertebrate animals (90%) were used in the framework of the REACH Regulation.