



NEWS



EU & US Move to Phase Out Animal Testing

In a converging policy shift on both sides of the Atlantic, European regulators this week published a roadmap toward fully replacing animal testing for chemical safety assessments, while the US Environmental Protection Agency issued a rare update to its list of alternative test methods.

The EPA on June 2 added 13 new approach methods (NAMs) to the list of tests accepted for chemical assessments under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

It's the first update in 5 years, but the agency is asking scientists and industry to nominate additions for future, more frequent updates. It launched a "science-driven pathway" to grow the list of NAMs, starting with an open invitation to submit potential additions via email. EPA scientists will evaluate submissions and add accepted methods to the list, the agency says in an announcement.

Meanwhile, on June 1, the European Commission released a roadmap outlining 22 action points to gradually replace animal testing for chemical safety assessments in 15 policy domains, including chemicals for industrial and consumer uses, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and food and feed additives. The roadmap sorts action points into three pillars. The first pillar covers 31 "opportunities" for replacing, reducing, or refining animal testing for specific end points, such as using computational models for acute oral toxicity testing or omitting certain assays for carcinogenicity testing.

The second pillar aims to leverage artificial intelligence and large datasets for developing new test methods.

The third pillar looks at boosting collaboration among stakeholders within the European Union (EU) and with regulators in third countries. Measures include setting up an electronic information hub on NAMs by the end of 2027.

Validation bottlenecks and vague timelines for phasing out animal testing

While animal testing cannot yet be fully replaced in all areas, accelerating the development, qualification and regulatory acceptance of alternative methods offers significant opportunities for both science and society.

While the roadmap acknowledges barriers to validation, it doesn't provide specific solutions. The European Commission says it will start implementing the roadmap "immediately." A high-level conference to take stock of progress is due in 2029.

The European Chemicals Agency launched a collaborative platform where regulators, industry, academia, and civil society can discuss scientific and technical challenges to implementing the roadmap.

Reference:

<https://cen.acs.org/policy/chemical-regulation/animal-research-chemical-safety-testing-reach-tsca/104/web/2026/06>