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# Waiving animal testing: Experiments within the Cosmetic industry

*Cosmetic products should be safe under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use. In particular, a risk-benefit reasoning should not justify a risk to human health* (extract from Cosmetic Regulation EC n°1223/2009).

In 2003, the 7th Amendment of the EU Cosmetics Directive introduced deadlines in order to ban animal testing. This prohibition started in 2004 with the testing ban on finished cosmetic products. It was followed with the testing ban on the ingredients in 2009. In 2013, despite the lack of validated alternative methods, no more animal testing could be performed for ingredients for cosmetic use in the EU.

Nevertheless, under the Cosmetic Regulation, the responsible person of the cosmetic company has to ensure the safety of the use of cosmetic products before placing them on the community market. Safety evaluation of the finished product is a risk assessment based essentially on the toxicological profile of its ingredients.

Over the past years, the ban of animal testing have stimulated the cosmetic industry to develop new strategies for safety assessment. Various in vitro methods have been formally validated (e.g. skin irritation) or are currently used based on accumulated experience (e.g. eye irritation). However, most of the toxicological endpoints are not yet covered by in vitro testing. Consequently, in addition to in vitro methods, the cosmetic industry has developed alternative approaches like read across, which contribute to the decision-making process. The safety assessment is therefore based on a set of evidences which allow the safety assessor to make a decision.

Furthermore, this integrated strategy is based on the knowledge of toxicological profiles of well known substances. In the case of a new ingredient, the lack of a related substance could lead to the refusal by the safety assessor to use this ingredient in cosmetics. We cannot ignore this impact on the innovation of the EU cosmetic industry.

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