

ANIMAL WELFARE - WACKER OPTS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO VERTEBRATE TESTING

Sustainability is an essential component of our corporate culture and corporate strategy. The numerous aspects of sustainability also include animal welfare and avoiding vertebrate testing.

Performing animal experiments responsibly

Regrettably, animal experiments are often unavoidable. WACKER is aware of its responsibility and therefore supports the internationally acknowledged 3R principle:

What is the 3R principle in animal experiments?



- Replace**
Replace an animal experiment with another method.
- Reduce**
As many experiments or lab animals as necessary, but as few as possible.
- Refine**
Minimize suffering to the lab animals (e.g. due to pain).

Source: German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals www.bfr.bund.de

Toxicology Tests Are Legally Required

WACKER is required to perform toxicological tests on the chemicals it uses by principally legal regulations, e.g. REACH. Toxicological test data are also needed due to the company's duty of protection

- Toward its employees
- Toward its responsibilities toward the environment and population (Responsible Care)
- From findings on exposure and production
- From customers and the specific demands of our market.

Animal Experiments are Controversial

Animal experiments, i.e. tests on and with living animals, are ethically highly controversial. Scientific tests on vertebrates (e.g. mammals and fish) play an important role in research, even though there are problems in applying the test results to humans because of the differences in anatomy and physiology. This uncertainty increases the more remote the test system is from the human organism.

WACKER Supports Alternative Methods - if Possible

Test methods are being continually developed and kept abreast of the latest findings in science and technology. In animal experiments, the goal is to replace in vivo (on the living organism) with in vitro methods (outside the living organism, e.g. tests with cell lines). These trends are actively supported by the chemical industry.

WACKER Relies on Cross-Comparisons

The need for animal experiments is carefully checked in each case. Before an animal experiment is commissioned, WACKER first examines all legally and scientifically acceptable options. Where possible and accepted by authorities/

third parties, WACKER performs cross-comparisons, analogies and the in vitro tests mentioned above. We classify substances with similar properties into groups for testing and work within REACH consortia to exchange scientific data with other companies.

We Team Up with Other Companies

To reduce the overall number of animal experiments in our industry, we commission toxicological tests within the legal framework in cooperation with other manufacturers (e.g. consortia).

Contracting only by Experts

Only selected toxicologists are permitted to contract out animal experiments. Larger-scale tests are always discussed by at least two colleagues in order to ascertain the test scale and test plan. Our toxicologists' expertise is also crucial for mounting factual arguments against animal experiments that are required but not productive.

Selected Partners

We choose the test institutes carefully, require at least GLP certification and perform spot audits.

Support Tools and Links

www.bfr.bund.de