

Animal Testing

Chef Rubber is sometimes asked about the use of animals for testing. The following information addresses the legal requirement for safety and FDA policy on developing alternative methods.

FDA is responsible for assuring that products are safe and properly labeled. This mission is accomplished through enforcement of the FD&C Act, related statutes, and regulations promulgated under these laws.

The FD&C Act does not specifically require the use of animals in testing for safety, nor does the Act subject to FDA premarket approval. However, the agency has consistently advised manufacturers to employ whatever testing is appropriate and effective for substantiating the safety of their products. It remains the responsibility of the manufacturer to substantiate the safety of both ingredients and finished products prior to marketing.

FDA supports and adheres to the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, and policies governing animal testing, including the Animal Welfare Act and the Public Health Service Policy of Humane Care and Use of lab Animals. Moreover, in all cases where testing is used, FDA advocates that research and testing derive the maximum amount of useful scientific information and employ the most proven methods available within the limits of scientific capability.

Consideration should be given to the use of scientifically valid alternative methods to testing. In 1997, FDA joined with thirteen other Federal agencies in forming the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM). ICCVAM and its supporting center, the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM), coordinate the development, validation, acceptance, and harmonization of alternative toxicological test methods throughout the U.S. Federal Government.

FDA supports the development and use of alternatives to testing as well as adherence to the most proven methods available within the limits of scientific capability for testing the safety of products.

Chef Rubber will continue to be a strong advocate of methodologies for the refinement, reduction, and replacement of animal tests with alternative methodologies that do not employ the use of animals.