

Frequently asked questions relating to animal testing

Are lavera products exported to China?

For many years now, we have partnered with a distributor based in Hong Kong, which is part of the People's Republic of China. Our distributor also delivers to Malaysia and Singapore.

Please note that there are regulations for ingredients and for finished formulas. The following answers relate to the ingredients and to the finished product.

Does animal testing happen in China?

No, according to our distribution partner, animal testing is not carried out to the extent that we are led to believe by the media. We must rely on our partner regarding this matter.

Please note:

Chinese laws are not comparable to European laws. In some cases, the law is not clear and processes are not fully explained. Our partner estimates that only some laws are disclosed in full to the outside world in order to keep high barriers on imports.

Where does lavera stand in relation to the problem of animal testing in China?

lavera has always opposed animal testing and does not commission any such testing. However, no company in Europe can flout existing laws, whatever country they are in. We cannot take a stance on anything which has not yet been disclosed with regards to China since that would be idle speculation.

Please note:

Since the founding of our company, our products (finished products) have all been tested on voluntary participants. We have an in-house testing division and work together with external testing institutes and voluntary participants, including allergy sufferers.

How does lavera prevent animal testing from taking place?

No producer can prevent animal testing from taking place, whether that producer is lavera or another producer, **if it is required by law.**

Please note:

As part of the new REACH legislation in Europe, a centralized record of all cosmetic ingredients is being put together. This is primarily a positive move as it is important to have a database that everyone can refer to. However, in order to create and implement this legislation and to make the database, thereby guaranteeing a significant reduction in animal testing, it is first necessary to use animal testing on a one-off basis (if no alternative testing methods are available).

We have worked closely with professional associations to raise awareness of this problem (for example, some essential documents were already available, which rendered many of the animal tests unnecessary). We also continue to demonstrate our commitment by voluntarily adopting and adhering to strict guidelines which we have created ourselves.

Today, cosmetic animal testing is prohibited by law. However, this was not the case 25 years ago.

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New innovative ingredients such as stem cells or other ingredients, **which are used in the USA**, are no longer permitted for animal testing in Europe. One exception within Europe, and thereby **required by law**, is pigment testing (pigments that are also used by the pharmaceutical industry and for which animal testing is still required).

What if tests have already been carried out on animals?

We do not have any information confirming that this is the case for China, so any comments regarding this would be speculation.

Please note:

lavera is opposed to animal testing, as is clearly stated in the lavera guarantee. However, if a country issues regulations for tests concerning currently used ingredients, no company can ignore these regulations.

What would lavera do if animal testing were carried out for lavera products?

There is no simple answer to this question. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as complete freedom from animal testing, even if it were desired. There are still certain regulations which require animal testing. However, due to the new REACH legislation for the cosmetics industry, animal testing has been prohibited as much as possible.

Please note:

If, however, a new flu medicine were to be found which could save thousands of people, animal testing would also be included as part of the testing process.

Natural ingredients in certified natural cosmetics do not, for the most part, require animal testing due to their natural occurring properties.

Some of the ingredients in natural cosmetics have been used for centuries, such as shea butter, almond oil, sea buckthorn oil and rose oil. As producer, we cannot guarantee that these ingredients have never been tested on animals at some point in time. We can only make our position as clear as possible and this is what we have done: we only test cosmetic products (finished products) on voluntary participants and do not commission any animal testing.

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