



Position Statement

Nanotechnology

AkzoNobel
Tomorrow's Answers Today

The development of nanomaterials and nanotechnologies is expected to play a major role in product innovation across a variety of sectors and applications bringing social, economic and sustainable benefits to society. For example nanotechnologies are facilitating advances in biomedical sciences, information technology and coatings science where they offer exciting opportunities for improved functionality. Akzo Nobel supports the responsible development and use of nanotechnology and recognises our obligation to ensure all our products and processes are safe and do not pose a danger to people or the environment when they are used in the manner intended.

In assessing the risks of nanomaterials it is important to remember that small scale structures have been safely used in products produced by the chemical industry for decades (such as use in paints and as catalysts). We believe that methodologies for risk assessment and management adopted by the Chemical industry provide a suitable framework for the sustainable development of nanotechnologies. Through participation in industry associations such as CEFIC we closely monitor initiatives that are reviewing and refining hazard testing and assessment methods for nanomaterials.

AkzoNobel has taken the following steps to ensure safe and responsible development and use of nanotechnology in its business:

- The potential risk of all new compounds and products containing nanomaterials is assessed before they are handled to determine necessary measures to protect employees, customers, the general public and the environment.
- We ensure that all of the materials we work with and use comply with requirements set under legislation.
- In keeping with good SHE practices we ensure that we take appropriate steps to minimise exposure to nanomaterials when they are handled through the use of extensive control measures
- As is the case for all our products, finished products that contain nanomaterials dispersed in bulk liquid or solid media are subject to product stewardship measures which includes providing our customers with information about the safe transport, storage, use, processing and disposal of products.
- AkzoNobel has representation on the Industrial Advisory Board of the Institute of Nanotechnology and in major industry bodies such as CEFIC and benefits from leading edge thinking in the responsible development and use of nanotechnology from colleagues in industry, academia, government and regulatory bodies.

AkzoNobel's position on the responsible development and use of nanotechnology is in line with that of major industry bodies such as CEFIC, whose position on Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies can be found [here](#).