



# Emerging Technologies

Our Haleon policy position



## **Background**

Haleon is a world-leading consumer health company with a clear purpose to deliver better everyday health with humanity. Our leading brands, built on science, innovation and deep human understanding, are trusted by millions of consumers globally. As a leading consumer health company, we aim to be at the forefront of the application of new scientific technologies to develop new healthcare products and meet the real needs of our consumers.

Emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, genetic engineering and human stem cell research continue to develop at pace. The use of products intentionally designed and produced using emerging technologies has also increased considerably over recent years.

While there are a number of benefits associated with the use of emerging technologies in the research, development and manufacture of a wide range of products, we recognise that any potential hazards to consumer or environmental safety, arising from the novel properties of some materials designed and produced using emerging technologies also need to be appropriately managed.

This policy position outlines Haleon's approach to emerging technologies and how it relates to our business practices.

## **Our Guiding Principles**

### **1. We are a health company that puts people first.**

We use internal and external scientific expertise, along with the available facts and data, to continually evaluate the safety of the ingredients in our products as well as any technologies that we use. For more information, please see our position on [\*\*product and ingredient safety.\*\*](#)

Safety, health, environment, and wellbeing is a moral and legal obligation for Haleon: this includes monitoring, investigating, and reporting all incidents, and ensuring that appropriate actions are taken accordingly. Moreover, Haleon is committed to provide and maintain healthy and safe workplaces by identifying and mitigating or eliminating all workplace hazards and reducing Environment, Health, Safety and Wellbeing risks.

### **2. Trusted Science is a key part of Haleon: we use science to build confidence and trust in self-care, and trust in our brands.**

By understanding the latest science, Haleon aims to be at the forefront of the application of new scientific technologies to develop healthcare products and meet the real needs of our consumers. With our science-based approach, we are fully committed to supporting ongoing research relevant to our field and engaging in

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the public debate addressing any associated concerns with emerging technologies, including stem cell research, genetic engineering and nanotechnology.

### **3. We comply with the diverse regulations that apply to our products around the world.**

The risks related to the use of emerging technologies in our products are assessed and managed according to the rules and recommendations from regulatory agencies, as well as any new scientific developments. Our product development approach is designed to meet, and often exceed, the required standards for the benefit of people and the environment.

## **Human Stem Cell Research**

- **Background.**

Stem cell research is defined as the area of research that studies the properties of stem cells and their potential use in medicine. Human stem cells are human cells that can develop into many different cell types.

- **Haleon's approach to human stem cell research.**

Haleon does not use human stem cells in our research, development, or manufacturing of any of our products.

## **Nanotechnology**

- **Background.**

The term nanotechnology is used to describe the branch of science and engineering dedicated to designing, producing, and using structures, devices, and systems by manipulating atoms and molecules at nanoscale<sup>i</sup>. The nanoscopic scale refers to structures having one or more dimensions of the order of 100 nanometres or less<sup>i</sup>.

Nanomaterials are one of the main products of nanotechnologies. While the European Commission has published a recommended definition of a nanomaterial<sup>i,ii</sup>, the United States FDA published considerations in the context of "nanotechnology," "nanomaterial," "nanoscale," or other related terms as there is no established regulatory definition in place<sup>iii</sup>.

Nanotechnology has extensive application in a broad range of products. For example, nanomaterials might be incorporated as ingredients or components in medical devices, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and sun protection products. Some nanomaterials occur naturally, while others are engineered to achieve specific properties.

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While nanotechnology may offer many potential benefits, Haleon recognises that there is currently a debate about the potential impact of engineered and natural nanomaterials on human and environmental safety, emerging from the specific properties of these materials. As a result, there are ongoing discussions about the need for further regulations in this area.

- **Haleon’s approach to nanotechnology.**

In addition to our commitment to comply with the applicable regulations and our guiding principles (described above), Haleon evaluates data and risks of nanomaterials if used in our products. If available data is insufficient to quantify risk, Haleon adopts a precautionary approach during the development of our products to minimize risks and continues to evaluate the issue and monitor the externally available data.

## **Genetic Engineering**

- **Background.**

Genetic engineering is defined as a process using laboratory-based technologies to alter the DNA makeup of an organism<sup>iv</sup>. A genetically modified organism (GMO) is the term that is commonly used to describe a plant, animal, or microorganism that has had its genetic material (DNA) altered through genetic engineering<sup>v</sup>.

As a science-based healthcare company, Haleon recognizes the benefits that can be associated with the use of genetically engineered ingredients and does use such ingredients in certain markets in its global portfolio of products. Haleon acknowledges, however, that some consumers and governments have concerns about the use of genetically modified ingredients, and ingredients containing genetic material that has been modified through laboratory techniques (i.e., bioengineered ingredients).

- **Haleon’s approach to genetic engineering.**

In addition to our commitment to comply with the applicable regulations and our guiding principles (described above), Haleon evaluates data and risks of bioengineered ingredients. If available data are insufficient to quantify risk, Haleon adopts a precautionary approach during the development of our products to minimize risks and continues to evaluate the issue and monitor the externally available data.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/opinions\\_layman/en/nanotechnologies/l-2/1-introduction.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/opinions_layman/en/nanotechnologies/l-2/1-introduction.htm)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://euon.echa.europa.eu/definition-of-nanomaterial>

<sup>iii</sup> [Drug Products, Including Biological Products, that Contain Nanomaterials \(fda.gov\)](#)

<sup>iv</sup> [Genetic Engineering \(genome.gov\)](#)

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/food/agricultural-biotechnology/how-gmos-are-regulated-united-states>