

Code of Conduct Nanotechnology



Along with offering opportunities, all new technologies also pose risks and this is true for nanotechnology, too. In order to tap into the opportunities offered by technological progress, we want to use new technologies when manufacturing innovative and market-grade products. Only on the basis of these concrete products can a rational assessment be conducted of the potential risks, compared with the opportunities, these products pose. This means that only the willingness to pursue opportunities and risks on a gradual basis will make innovations based on new technologies possible. As an innovative company, we have within this process a special responsibility towards our employees, customers, suppliers and society but also towards future generations. This code of conduct spells out the principles on which our work is based.

1. We, the employees of BASF, develop and use the potential of nanotechnology in order to manufacture products with enhanced performance or new properties using targeted production and the use of new, nanoscale materials.

- The protection of human life and the environment is a fundamental principle for our company.

- We identify sources of risk for our employees in our laboratories, production plants, packing facilities and storage facilities and eliminate these using the appropriate measures. In the event of any health and environmental hazards arising as a result of our operations, we take immediate action.

- Producing artificial organisms and self-replicating nanorobots using nanotechnology is, on the basis of all available scientific information, not possible and for us merely science fiction.

2. To the extent that new technologies are converted into concrete processes and products, the expertise required to weigh up the opportunities against the potential risks related to the use of new technologies in the form of innovative products and processes increases. The same is true for nanotechnology. We take these risks seriously and, in parallel with technological progress, work continuously to identify potential environmental and health risks.

- BASF has decades of experience in managing the risks of new technologies: we evaluate carefully and comprehensively any potential risks and take the appropriate measures to safeguard humans and the environment.

- We are actively involved in the ongoing development of a scientifically based database for the assessment of potential risks as well as in improving and refining product-based testing and assessment methods. In addition, we actively debate the opportunities and risks of nanotechnology with partners from all areas of society.

- Wherever existing legislation and guidelines have not yet taken developments in nanotechnology into account, BASF contributes constructively to drawing up legislation. Our goal is to establish risk-appropriate, solid standards and to support relevant legislation.

3. We have long had nanotechnology-based products in our portfolio and we plan to utilize nanotechnology's potential in the future too, in order to offer our customers products and systems that help them to be successful.

- BASF only markets products if their safety and environmental impact can be guaranteed on the basis of all available scientific information and technology.

- We provide our customers and logistics partners with information about the safe transportation, storage, safe use, processing and disposal of our products.

- Economic considerations do not take priority over safety and health issues and environmental protection.

4. In our Values and Principles, we have committed ourselves to pursuing a dialogue with society based on openness and trust. We regard it as our duty to provide information about both the opportunities and the potential risks of nanotechnology.

- We are committed to transparency and to an objective and constructive public debate.

- We disclose new findings to the authorities and the public immediately.