

ANSES

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (*Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail, ANSES*) became a legal and operational entity on July 1st 2010.

The new agency incorporates the missions, resources and personnel of the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) and the French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (AFSSET). It has also inherited their achievements and values - scientific skills, independent risk assessment, openness in expertise - in order to make them available for a more global and transversal perspective on health issues.

ANSES contributes to ensuring human health and safety in the fields of environment, work and food, as well as protecting animal health and welfare, and protecting plant health.

ANSES work on nanomaterials:

The agency draws on collective and independent expertise, guided by Committees of Specialised Experts, including one, dealing with questions relating to nanomaterials. Through its various activities such as risk assessment, funding of research, and others, ANSES has called upon over 100 [nanomaterial](#) experts to contribute to its work. In response to government requests, ANSES (formerly AFSSET) has published 3 reports on nanomaterials and health (2006, 2008 & 2010). The agency has launched a project on the health risk assessment of nanomaterials for consumers for which exposure scenarios will be developed. It is also involved in the [OECD](#) Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) and in particular in the Sponsorship Programme for the safety testing of a representative set of manufactured nanomaterials (MNs) where France is co-leader on [Titanium dioxide](#) and [silicon dioxide](#), as well as a contributor for [carbon nanotubes](#) and silver particles. ANSES also leads in France the project dealing with control banding submitted by AFNOR to the [ISO](#) plenary session and accepted in March 2009 as the PG8 project of WG3 of ISO's technical committee on nanotechnologies TC229.

Through its research programme, ANSES has financed more than 12 projects on nanomaterials.

ANSES role in NANOGENOTOX:

The Joint Action's coordination and management is carried out by the "European and International Affairs" Unit and the "Physical Agents, New Technologies and Large Developments" Unit. The "Information, Communication and Society" Department is leader for the dissemination of the Joint Action (WP2).

Two laboratories are also implicated in the Joint Action: the "Toxicology of Contaminants" Unit of the Laboratory of Fougères, specialised in *in vitro* and *in vivo* [genotoxicity](#) is the leader of the WP6, and also involved in WP7. The "Environmental Inorganic Contaminants and Mineral" Unit of the Laboratory of Maisons-Alfort which specialises in [ICP-MS](#) analyses, is involved in WP7.