
ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal Testing – Cosmetics

Animal testing is no longer conducted on cosmetics in the UK, but testing continues outside the UK. 'Depends' might be interpreted as allowing animal testing where a '3Rs' policy is adopted: reduce the need for animal testing, replace animal testing with other methods and refine the testing to minimise both the suffering and extent of the testing.

Animal Testing – Chemicals

Chemicals including products such as paint are required by law to be tested for toxicity. This usually involves testing with animals. 'Depends' might be interpreted as allowing animal testing where a '3Rs' policy is adopted: reduce the need for animal testing, replace animal testing with other methods and refine the testing to minimise both the suffering and extent of the testing.

Animal Testing – Health

New drugs and some healthcare products are required by law to be tested for their efficacy and safety. Most companies use animal testing to achieve this. 'Depends' might be interpreted as allowing animal testing where a '3Rs' policy is adopted: reduce the need for animal testing, replace animal testing with other methods and refine the testing to minimise both the suffering and extent of the testing

Animal Products – Production

This includes meat and dairy products, leather and fur. 'Depends' would allow investment in meat and dairy producers if high standards of animal welfare are implemented.

Animal Products – Retail

This relates to the retail of meat and dairy products, leather and fur. 'Depends' is interpreted as allowing the retail of meat and dairy products where high standards of animal welfare are in place.

ENVIRONMENT

Air Transport

The transport of people and freight by air is a major contributor to global warming. Total avoidance would exclude all airlines and logistics companies using air transport, whereas 'depends' would allow investment in companies which might be regarded as 'best of class' in terms of their environmental footprint.

Genetically Modified Food – Production

There are significant concerns over the safety of genetically modified food as well as the ethics of the companies who are patenting the technology. GM production might be viewed as permissible if the company involved can demonstrate that it has not abused the patenting of its technology.

Intensive Farming

Modern agriculture relies on intensive farming which has led to food surpluses and cheap food but at the cost of decreased variety, loss of biodiversity and polluted food. 'Depends' would allow investment in companies that don't actually produce the raw food, but are secondary in the food production chain such as food processors.

Nuclear Power

The global warming crisis has brought about a renaissance in nuclear energy, yet concerns remain over its safety and cost (storage issues still haven't been adequately addressed). 'Depends' means that companies providing strategic services to the nuclear industry such as safety and other engineering solutions would be deemed to be permissible.

Poor Environmental Management

This covers poor records of pollution, energy efficiency and use of resources. 'Depends' would allow investment in companies that have historically had a poor record, but demonstrate evidence of putting their house in order.

Tropical Hardwood – Unsustainable sourcing

Retailers of hardwood products such as furniture have historically purchased timber without reference to the sustainability of the supply, yet much of the hardwood has been derived from pillaging tropical rainforests which have been disappearing at a fast rate as a result. 'Depends' means that investment is allowed in companies which currently do not source the majority of their timber from sustainable sources but have implemented credible policies to address this.

HUMAN WELFARE

Alcohol Production

Although most of us enjoy a tipples, there is no denying that alcohol is a major addiction with consequent health and social costs. 'Depends' would therefore be interpreted as allowing investment in producers that demonstrate leading socially responsible practice in terms of the way in which their products are marketed.

Armaments – Weapons systems

Weapons systems would include any product that is used for killing other people, whether this be in defence of aggression. 'Depends' means that component manufacturers would be allowable if the military is not a core customer.

Armaments – Non-weapons related

This includes contracts with the M.O.D. of a non strategic nature, such as soldiers uniforms, food or education facilities. 'Depends' would allow investment in companies which supply such services where the M.O.D. is not a key customer.

Gambling

Gambling is a major addiction which ruins people's lives. Many of us might have the occasional flutter, but gambling companies make their money out of people who gamble regularly. 'Depends' is interpreted as allowing investment in companies which retail lottery tickets or operate fruit machines as a minor part of their business.

Human Rights

This covers rights of employees as defined by the United Nations and also the rights of indigenous peoples. 'Total exclusion' means that companies would be avoided if there is evidence of them not implementing the UN Charter on Human Rights, whereas 'depends' would allow investment in companies where there is evidence of isolated human rights violations but have well documented procedures in place for the company as a whole.

Oppressive Regimes

Most major companies operate on a global scale and for these companies it is becoming increasingly difficult not to do business with China and other emerging economies that are often undemocratic and under military law. 'Total avoidance' means avoiding companies that operate in an oppressive regime or have major trading relationships with oppressive regimes. 'Depends' allows investment in companies that have detailed human rights policies and have no history of human rights violations, or whose business is the provision of solutions to social or environmental challenges.

Pornography

'Total avoidance' of pornography would exclude the production, wholesaling and retailing of any form of pornography including subscription channels, magazines and films. 'Depends' allows investment in wholesalers such as newsagents where this constitutes a relatively minor part of the business.

Tobacco Production

Tobacco is incontrovertibly linked with cancer and is a major drain on the health service. It is an addictive substance, where falling markets in the West are being replaced by growing number of smokers in China and less developed markets. 'Depends' would allow investment in tobacco manufacturers that have best addressed their social and environmental impact.