

## CONTROVERSIAL CRITERION

### ANIMAL WELFARE

#### Forum ETHIBEL position statement

Animals have played an important role in human societies since time immemorial, whether for farming, for transporting goods or people, or as pets. Animal welfare concerns have been on the agenda of numerous organisations and animal activists for many years. Legislation in different countries, and at the international level, forbids cruel treatment of animals; there are strict regulations in place regarding the use of animals for testing.

However, there is still a great deal of controversy regarding the treatment of animals, for example where they are used in laboratories to test chemicals or cosmetics, or for entertainment in a circus. Practices contrary to animal welfare may serve as a basis for not including companies in the Ethibel Register.

#### Eligibility

Controversial criterion	Sub-category	Case-by-case	Eligible
Animal welfare	Production of non-medical products tested on animals	always	0%
	Production of medical and healthcare products tested on animals.	/	always
	Products and services involving violations of animal welfare.	always	0%

#### Definitions

Forum ETHIBEL distinguishes between the following categories in terms of animal welfare:

<b>Production of non-medical products tested on animals</b>	<p>This category includes:</p> <p><u>Cosmetic goods</u>: a substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the human body with a view exclusively or mainly to clean, perfume and/or change appearance;</p> <p><u>Semi-cosmetic goods</u>: a product with a specific purpose that has a mild effect on the body but is not intended for use in the diagnosis, cure or prevention of disease. (e.g. Hair tonics, bath preparations.)</p> <p><u>Household products</u>: Detergents for cleaning and laundry activities.</p> <p><b>Note</b>: if one of these products has to be tested <b>mandatory</b> on animals, including their ingredients, an exception can be made.</p>
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<b>Production of pharmaceuticals &amp; healthcare products tested on animals</b>	A pharmaceutical product is a product that treats, prevents or alleviates the symptoms of a disease (like antibiotics). A healthcare product is a product used to prevent sickness, or stay healthy (like vitamins).
<b>Products and services involving violations of animal welfare</b>	Intensive farming operations, production or sale of fur.

Companies that use animal tests for the production of cosmetics, semi-cosmetics and household products are eligible for the Register, depending on how they implement the 3R<sup>1</sup>-principles. This principle stands for:

- **Replacement:** Methods which avoid or replace the use of animals.
- **Reduction:** Methods which minimise the number of animals used per experiment.
- **Refinement:** Methods which minimise animal suffering and improve welfare.

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>