

EXPLANATION OF HOW KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BENCHMARK METHODOLOGY REFLECT ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) FACTORS

ISS ESG USA Governance QualityScore Index NTR



This document provides an explanation of how the key elements of the benchmark methodology reflect ESG factors. It is compiled in accordance with the requirements of point (d) of Article 13 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 (the "Benchmarks Regulation") and of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1817.

General Information

Name of the benchmark administrator	Solactive AG
Type of benchmark or family of benchmarks	Equity
Name of the benchmark or family of benchmarks	ISS ESG USA Governance QualityScore Index NTR
Does the benchmark methodology for the benchmark or family of benchmarks take into account ESG factors?	Yes

ESG Factors Applied in the Benchmark Methodology

List of environmental factors considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exclusion of companies with verified ongoing failure to respect established international norms. The core normative framework consists of the Principles of the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
List of social factors considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exclusion of companies with verified ongoing failure to respect established international norms. The core normative framework consists of the Principles of the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights. > Exclusion of companies with verified ongoing involvement in the area of controversial weapons (including chemical, biological and nuclear weapons (both under and outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons), depleted uranium munitions, cluster munitions, and anti-personnel mines).
List of governance factors considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exclusion of companies with verified ongoing failure to respect established international norms. The core normative framework consists of the Principles of the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights. > Securities are ranked in their respective sectors by their Governance QualityScore. Securities with the highest score receive the highest rank. The ISS Governance QualityScore (GQS) is a data-driven score designed to support investors in their review of risk in Board Structure, Compensation, Shareholder Rights, and Audit & Risk Oversight. The GQS methodology focuses on the qualitative aspects of governance, including global governance standards and alignment with ISS voting policy in each region. The INDEX utilizes the raw GQS score, not the decile score. > All companies without a Governance Quality Score are removed from the selection of the Index.



Data and Standards used

Data Input	The data used to construct the index is sourced externally from Institutional Shareholder Services Inc.
Verification and quality of data	The provider of ESG-related data input is selected by the Administrator based on an assessment of its existing processes in order to ensure the reliability and representativeness of the ESG-related data. The data provider has established processes in accordance with accepted and established market standards that ensure the permanent quality and reliability of the ESG-data provided.
Reference standards	International standards referenced by the index methodology are listed in the respective section above.
Information updated on	23/02/2024
Reason for update:	Initial Creation of the ESG Report.

CONTACT

Solactive AG
German Index Engineering
Platz der Einheit 1
60327 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Tel.: +49 (0) 69 719 160 00
Fax: +49 (0) 69 719 160 25
Email: info@solactive.com
Website: www.solactive.com

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