

EIRIS Independence Policy

EIRIS prides itself on its independence and integrity. EIRIS is wholly owned by the EIRIS Foundation which ensures that independence is a core value of EIRIS.

EIRIS research is independent of all inappropriate influence and aims to provide clients with an objective assessment of corporate environmental, social, governance and ethical management and performance.

EIRIS has written procedures to identify and eliminate, or manage and disclose any conflicts of interest that may influence the independence and objectivity of EIRIS research. These are contained in the EIRIS Code of Conduct.

The following are the key tenets of EIRIS Independence:

1. EIRIS does not charge Companies for being rated or researched
2. EIRIS is not owned, in part or whole, by any Company it researches
3. EIRIS does not provide paid consulting to Companies it researches but may assist Companies understand how to meet EIRIS criteria
4. EIRIS is not owned by any of its clients
5. EIRIS does not provide research in conjunction with asset management services
6. EIRIS research staff are separated from the client staff and neither undertake consulting on behalf of companies that EIRIS researches except for financial institutions which may be both researched and be clients of EIRIS
7. EIRIS clients do not determine company gradings and assessments; however the EIRIS research methodology is explicitly meant to reflect client demand and input
8. EIRIS uses information from NGOs and other stakeholders and follows a clear policy to ensure that such sources do not unfairly bias the resulting grading and assessments

Any conflicts of interest must be reported to the person's line manager. If any EIRIS staff member finds themselves in a situation where they feel they may potentially be facing a conflict of interest this should be reported to the appropriate person.

The compliance officer for the independence policy is the Personnel Manager. The independence Policy was approved in June 2007. A full copy of the policy is available on request.

Last updated: October 2008