Exclusion list of KfW Group

Version 3, published on 17 September 2026, Exclusion List | KfW

I. Scope

KfW Group's exclusion list is binding for **all new financing provided by KfW Group**, **regardless of the form or source of financing**.[1]

KfW Group comprehensively excludes financing related to the exclusions listed under II. These include, for example, but are not limited to, projects, use of proceeds, activities, production, distribution, trade, acquisition, application, and associated (IT) facilities.

Deviations may arise in mandated transactions (*Zuweisungsgeschäft*) in accordance with Article 2 (4) of the Law Concerning KfW, as well as in other financing transaction on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany following an explicit request from the relevant federal ministry to carry out the transaction even if it is not in line the exclusion list.

II. Exclusions

1. Topics subject to **national or international phase-out or prohibition regulations or to an international ban**, for example, but not limited to
   i. certain pharmaceuticals, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic substances (under the Rotterdam Convention, Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability"),
   ii. ozone-depleting substances (under the Montreal Protocol),
   iii. protected wildlife or wildlife products (under CITES / Washington Convention),
   iv. prohibited transboundary trade in waste (under the Basel Convention).

2. **Controversial weapons** or critical components thereof (for example, nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti-personnel mines, enriched uranium) as well as defence financing in destination countries outside the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.[2]

3. **Destruction**[3] or significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).

4. **Destructive fishing methods** or drift net fishing in the marine environment using nets in excess of 2.5 km.

5. **Unbound asbestos**. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20 %.

[1] KfW Group's exclusion list took effect group-wide on 1 July 2019, and was expanded on 14 December 2023, to include exclusions related to oil and gas.

[2] There are exclusions from the above-mentioned scope of countries in the context of export refinancing and issuing of guarantees.

[3] "Destruction" means (i) the destruction or severe deterioration of the integrity of an area caused by a major and prolonged change in the use of land or water, or (ii) the alteration of a habitat which leads to the inability of the affected area to perform its function.

6. **Radioactive material[4] and nuclear power plants**. Prospecting, exploration, and extraction aimed to more than 50 % at radioactive materials, transportation and storage infrastructure used to more than 50 % for radioactive materials, as well as nuclear power plants (apart from measures that reduce environmental hazards of existing assets).

7. **Coal and coal-fired power plants**. Prospection, exploration and extraction of coal, the production of gas by carbonisation of coal, transport and storage infrastructure used to more than 50 % for coal; coal-fired power plants, heating stations and cogeneration facilities as well as associated stub lines.[5]

8. Prospection, exploration and extraction of **oil**, transport and storage infrastructure for crude oil, oil terminals and oil harbours as well as refineries.[6,7]

9. Prospection, exploration and extraction of **natural gas**, new construction of natural gas grids and pipelines, vessels for the laying of natural gas pipelines, LNG liquefying terminals as well as production facilities for grey hydrogen (steam reforming of fossil fuels, without the use of CCS).[7,8]

Publisher / Originator
KfW Group
Palmengartenstrasse 5–9
60325 Frankfurt
Germany
www.kfw.de

[4] This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded.

[5] Investments in power transmission grids with more than 50 % coal-based power feed-in will only be pursued i) if the investments are specifically aimed at expanding renewable energy and advancing the energy transition, and thus indirectly at reducing the share of coal-based power in the relevant grid OR ii) in countries and regions with an ambitious national climate mitigation policy or strategy (NDC).

[6] The exclusion does not apply to refineries for bio-based products and refineries for predominantly (> 50 %) material use. Reprocessing (re-refining) and energetic use of waste oil are still eligible for financing.

[7] Measures for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or for increase of efficiency are generally eligible for financing provided that they do not take place in the prospection, exploration and extraction of oil and gas (upstream) and do not result in capacity extensions of more than 10 %. Selected investments aimed at improving the environmental and climate impact are exempt from the exclusion of associated facilities of upstream activities. Financing of carbon capture and storage is also eligible for financing.

[8] The exclusion of the construction of new natural gas grids and pipelines does not include the replacement of existing natural gas pipelines nor gas grids and pipelines for cooking purposes. Investments related to the expansion of grids for hydrogen and renewable gases are also eligible for funding.