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Ethical screening of Fiskars (Kitchen Devils)  
By Ethical Consumer Research Association  
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Fiskars is a Finnish company of long standing which is best known for its household and gardening tools, especially scissors and brands of knife which include Kitchen Devils. The core parent company has an unremarkable ethical record, with poor environmental and social reporting, possible involvement in unsustainable forestry operations on its estates in Finland and oppressive regimes records for its sales operations in Russia and the USA and, increasingly, for manufacturing operations in China, where it has controversially moved some of its factories in recent years, along with many other consumer goods manufacturers chasing lower wages and working conditions.

It is Fiskars' subsidiary companies where some more controversial references arise. Its fully-owned US subsidiary Gerber is a manufacturer of hunting and military knives and equipment, which boasts on its website that one of its models was the most popular soldiers' weapon knife during the Vietnam War, and sells a range of hunting accessories such as torches designed to show up blood so that wounded animals can be more easily located and killed. The company is a significant supplier of weapon knives to the US military.

Fiskars also owns a c.30% stake in Wartsila, a major Finnish engineering firm. It has records for the building of military ships, including attack ships, aircraft carriers and submarines and for the manufacture of power supplies and other machinery for the nuclear power industry. In addition, it also builds oil and gas tankers and other machinery and equipment for land and sea oil drilling, all of which are activities which contribute considerable to the problem of climate change.



## Database records

### **Environmental**

Company: Fiskars AB OY

Category: Habitats & Resources

Involved in Finnish forestry (2007)

According to the Fiskars company website [www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Fiskars had real estate operations in Finland which included control of over 15,000 acres of real estate which included large areas of forestry operations which were used commercially. No indication was given that the timber produced was certified by the FSC or any other monitor of sustainable forestry.

Reference: Fiskars AB OY Corporate Communications:[www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi) (11 July 2007)

Company: Fiskars AB OY

Category: Environmental Reporting

Worst ECRA rating for environmental reporting (2007)

A search was made by ECRA in July 2007 on the Fiskars corporate website [www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi) for a copy of the company's environmental policy or report. No such document could be found. A small amount of the company's 2006 Annual Report mentioned environmental issues such as forestry practices and the possibility of some of the company's forestry holdings being certified by the FSC, but there were no systematic measurable targets and no broad discussion of the company's environmental impacts or moves being made to address them.

Reference: Fiskars AB OY Corporate Communications:2006 Annual Report (11 July 2007)

### **People**

Company: Fiskars AB OY

Category: Human Rights

Subsidiaries in three oppressive regimes (2007)

According to the Fiskars company website [www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Fiskars had subsidiaries in the following countries regarded by ECRA at that time as having oppressive regimes: China, Russia, the USA.

Reference: Fiskars AB OY Corporate Communications:[www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi) (11 July 2007)

Company: Fiskars AB OY

Category: Supply Chain Policy

Worst ECRA rating for Supply Chain Policy (2007)

A search was made by ECRA in July 2007 on the company website [www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi) for a copy of the Fiskars Ab Oy Supply Chain Policy covering workers' rights in supplier factories. No such document, or any mention of one, could be found.

Reference: Fiskars AB OY Corporate Communications:[www.fiskars.fi](http://www.fiskars.fi) (11 July 2007)

Company: Gerber Legendary Blades

Category: Armaments

Sale of small weapons to the military (2007)

According to the company website [www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Gerber Legendary Blades sold a range of knives and cutting equipment designed for military use, with the indication that the company was a regular military supplier with US National Stock Numbers.

Reference: Gerber Legendary Blades Corporate Communications:[www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com) (11 July 2007)

## **Animals**

Company: Gerber Legendary Blades

Category: Other Animal Rights

Sale of hunting products (2007)

According to the company website [www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Gerber Legendary Blades sold a range of equipment for hunting and bloodsports, including designated hunting knives and torches with beams designed to spotlight blood so that wounded animals could be more easily killed.

Reference: Gerber Legendary Blades Corporate Communications:[www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com) (11 July 2007)

## **Wartsila database references**

### **Environmental**

Company: Wartsila

Category: Environmental Reporting

Best ECRA rating for environmental reporting (2007)

A search was made on Wartsila's corporate website in 2007 for environmental reporting data. The company's 2006 Annual Report was found to contain a Sustainability Report which incorporated targets for internal environmental improvements to company performance and to improvements in the environmental performance of the company's products, such as reducing carbon and pollutant emissions from engines. The report was found to have been verified by KPMG.

Reference: Wartsila Corporate Communications:Sustainability Report 2006 (2007)

Company: Wartsila

Category: Climate Change

Provision of services to climate change industry (2007)

According to the company website [www.wartsila.com](http://www.wartsila.com), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Wartsila was a provider of services and equipment to the oil and gas industry, one which was considered by ECRA to make substantial contributions to climate change emissions. The equipment mainly consisted of power solutions for oil and gas exploration, production, storage and refining, and the manufacture of oil and gas tankers.

Reference: Wartsila Corporate Communications:[www.wartsila.com](http://www.wartsila.com) (11 July 2007)

Company: Wartsila

Category: Environmental Reporting

Independent praise for environmental report (2002)

Wartsila Corporation, a Finnish energy company, won the 2002 'Best first-time report' at the European Environmental Reporting Awards.

Reference: Ethical Performance: Volume 4 Issue 2 (6 January 2002)

Company: Wartsila

Category: Nuclear Power

Manufacture of nuclear equipment (2007)

According to the 2007 issue of the World Nuclear Industry Handbook, Wartsila's French division was a supplier of standby generators to the nuclear industry.

Reference: World Nuclear Industry Handbook:2007 edition (2007)

## People

Company: Wartsila

Category: Armaments

Manufacture of naval vessels (2007)

According to the company website [www.wartsila.com](http://www.wartsila.com), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Wartsila manufactured and sold a range of military marine vessels, including combat vessels, naval support vessels, air craft carriers and submarines.

Reference: Wartsila Corporate Communications:[www.wartsila.com](http://www.wartsila.com) (11 July 2007)

Company: Wartsila

Category: Human Rights

Operations in 11 oppressive regimes (2007)

According to the company website [www.wartsila.com](http://www.wartsila.com), viewed by ECRA in July 2007, Wartsila had operations for sales or manufacturing purposes in the following countries regarded by ECRA as having oppressive regimes: China, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the USA and Vietnam.

Reference: Wartsila Corporate Communications:[www.wartsila.com](http://www.wartsila.com) (11 July 2007)

## Politics

Company: Wartsila

Category: Political Activities

Membership of ICC lobby group (2007)

The website of the International Chamber of Commerce ([www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org)), viewed on 16th May 2007, listed Wartsila Corporation as a member. According to the ICC, it had "direct access to national governments all over the world through its national committees"; "speaks for world business when governments take up such issues as intellectual property rights, transport policy, trade law or the environment"; "At UN summits on sustainable development, financing for development and the information society, ICC spearheads the business contribution." ECRA noted that the activity of lobby groups such as the ICC often meant that business interests were protected at the expense of the environmental and human rights.

Reference: International Chamber of Commerce ICC [www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org):[www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org) (16 May 2007)

## DISCLAIMER

This report is for illustrative purposes only and has been provided on the Corporate Critic website as an example screening. Data was correct at the date of the screening (July 2007) and may have been subject to change. Ethical Consumer takes no responsibility for any subsequent changes that may have taken place.