



B Lab Statement on Danone Iberia's B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for bottled water companies:

"Bottled water companies are eligible for B Corp Certification with additional review by the Standards Advisory Council and, at a minimum, incremental disclosure on their public B Corp profile regarding material sensitive issues in the industry."

Aguas Danone España (part of Danone Iberia) is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Water Access, Sustainable Usage, and Waste Management as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's statement on the bottled water industry and B Corp Certification [here](#).

Summary of Company

Aguas Danone España (ADE) is a subsidiary of Danone S.A., a multinational company with the mission of bringing health through food to as many people as possible. The company is responsible for the water extraction, bottling, distribution, and sale of water products. In its last fiscal year, the company earned 100% of its annual revenue from the sale of water/sparkling water/vitamin water. ADE has the following brands of natural mineral water/sparkling water/vitamin water:

- Font Vella®
- Lanjarón®
- Fonter®
- Imperial®

Aguas Danone España Practices

Water Access

ADE has the titularity of the extraction rights in each of the plants, Sant Hilari, Sigüenza, and Lanjarón. The authorization for the extraction and bottling of the natural mineral water has two parts:

- Declaration of natural mineral water: this declaration is done for each one of the resources (springs, boreholes, etc.) with the category of natural mineral water. It is conceded once there is a test of the purity and constant quality profile (minerals and absence of contaminants). This declaration does not expire, but it does not give the right to commercialize the water. According to Spanish legislation (Real Decreto 1798/2010 and Ley de Minas), commercialization requires additional steps: obtaining

an authorization for the exploitation of the spring and registering the bottling plant in the General Sanitary Registry (RGSEAA). Therefore, the declaration only certifies the category of the water, while the right to sell it depends on these complementary authorizations. ADE holds both the exploitation authorization and the sanitary registration, which allow the company to legally commercialize its natural mineral water.

- Extraction permit with detailed conditions about the total yearly extracted volume or instantaneous flow rate and expiration date, if any. The maximum extracted volume is conceded based on hydrogeological information presented in a formal project. The sustainable flow rate is then considered by the administration to allow the extraction of groundwater.

ADE obtains its natural mineral water from multiple groundwater catchments. Most of the lands containing the water sources belong to the company. In some cases, there are catchments where the land belongs to private parties. Where the land is owned by other parties, ADE has been granted water rights through private agreements. For the properties that belong directly to ADE, the company has held these legacy resources for up to 65 years ago, dating back to when the company's journey first began. For all the water resources it utilizes, ADE is responsible for sustainable management and reports to the relevant authorities.

The rates paid by the company to access and utilize water are dependent on the source. Where private agreements are in place, the terms of the agreement involve both fixed costs as well as variable costs associated with the volume of water extracted. For all water sources, ADE is also subject to a government-assessed tax relating to the volume of water that undergoes commercial water quality treatment for the marketplace. Because of different water user types and differences in how rates are calculated, it's difficult to draw a meaningful comparison of water rates across different user groups.

The following agencies play a role in regulating access to water and the company's water extraction practices in Spain:

- Geological Institute of Spain (IGME): It is a public consultative organism that participates in the process of declaration of natural mineral water, in the delimitation of the protected perimeter, and in the evaluation of the extraction permit. This organism works at the national level, giving a service to the regional Mining agencies. They have a very active section in the communication and management of natural mineral water, accessible at: <https://aguasmineralesytermales.igme.es/inicio.aspx>
- Regional Mining Agencies: natural mineral water in Spain is considered a mineral resource. It means that the regulation and management of the bottling plants are under the umbrella of the mining agencies. As Danone has three plants located in different autonomous communities, the agencies are:
 - for the Sant Hilari plant, located in Catalunya – [Generalitat de Catalunya](#);
 - for Sigüenza plant, located in Castilla la Mancha - [Dirección General de Transición Energética](#);
 - for Lanjarón plant: located in Andalucía - [Junta de Andalucía](#) .

Aguas Danone España has reported that they are not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices nor easier water access. The company also reported that there are no stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that remain unresolved.

Sustainable Usage

Through its internal management practices and the regulatory structure in place in Spain, ADE is able to demonstrate that the company's extraction of water does not impair the sustainability of the water resource over time. To ensure the company's water extraction rates are environmentally sustainable, ADE commissions hydrogeological studies, which inform the regulatory body that sets the permitted extraction rates and amounts. These findings also inform the company's internal water resource management practices. For example, the company measures and monitors several data points to assess the health of its water resources including actual extraction volumes, allowable extraction volumes (according to regulatory permits), and the natural aquifer recharge rates to prevent extracting volumes of water that may threaten the long-term sustainability of the water resource.

Like other Danone Waters business units, ADE utilizes Danone's proprietary SPRING (Sustainable Protection and Resource ManagING) tool, which is designed to optimally manage the water resource. On their most recent rankings, ADE's three facilities are classified as "Excellent", which is the highest level of performance.

Waste Management

Across its brands, ADE uses a combination of virgin plastic and recycled plastic (rPET) in various bottle formats. Currently, the average amount of recycled input material across ADE's two main brands, Lanjarón and Fontvella, is 72% rPET. By the end of 2025, the amount of recycled input material in the Fontvella brand portfolio will be 85%, with the expectation of achieving 100% by 2026. These goals reinforce ADE's commitment to continually improving the sustainability performance of its packaging. In the past few years, the company has focused on increasing the use of recycled materials to current levels, with goals to continuously increase the amount of recycled content and improve the recyclability of the packs, across the product portfolio. Through the company's environmental management system, ADE has set targets to continue increasing the amount of recycled plastic in its products, while also continuing to invest in other packaging technology through Danone Waters globally.

Other Management Comments

In 2017, with the support of the Danone Ecosystem Fund, Aguas Danone España and its local partners, Ecoembes and Fundació Trijinove, created the [Renueva project](#) to address the responsible management of water bottles sold in the away-from-home channel, which fall outside the scope of domestic container collection and recycling. The goal is to ensure the recovery of these bottles and maintain traceability throughout the entire process. The development of this project allowed the creation of a waste collection and sorting system,

coupled with a Circular Economy Recycling School, offering training in waste management with an emphasis on individuals with disabilities or those who are socially excluded. In addition to boosting collection and recycling rates of packages in the away-from-home channel, Renueva creates jobs and opportunities, increases the amount of recycled plastic (rPET) in ADE's product packaging, which has a direct impact on the business sourcing strategy, helps the company build a trustful relationship with its customers, and promotes the quality of the rPET market.

B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through [B Lab's Public Complaint Process](#). Grounds for complaint include:

1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the [certification process](#), or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#) within the B Corp Community.