



**Vegware**

Disclosure Report

Date Submitted: September 8th, 2023



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## Disclosure Materials

Certified B Corporations must complete a Disclosure Questionnaire to identify potentially sensitive issues related to the company (e.g. historical fines, sanctions, material litigation, or sensitive industry practices).

This component does not affect the company's score on the B Impact Assessment. If the company answers affirmatively to any items in the Disclosure Questionnaire that B Lab deems relevant for public stakeholders, then, as a condition of their certification, the company must:

- 1) Be transparent about details of the disclosure issues identified on the company's public B Impact Report
- 2) Describe how the company has addressed this issue
- 3) Demonstrate that management practices are in place to avoid similar issues from arising in the future, when necessary.

In all cases, the Standards Advisory council reserves the right to refuse certification if the company is ultimately deemed not to uphold the spirit and integrity of the community.

In addition to the voluntary indication of sensitive issues in the Disclosure Questionnaire, companies pursuing Certification also are subject to a background check by B Lab staff. Background checks include a review of public records, news sources, and search engines for company names, brands, executives/founders, and other relevant topics.

Sensitive issues identified through background checks may or may not be within the scope of questions in the Disclosure Questionnaire, but undergo the same review process and are subject to the same possible review by the Standards Advisory Council, including ineligibility for B Corp Certification, required remediation, or disclosure.

**This document contains a copy of the company's completed Disclosure Questionnaire and related disclosure documentation provided by the company**



# Disclosure Questionnaire

## Industries and Products

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company is involved in production of or trade in any of the following. Select Yes for all options that apply.		
Animal Products or Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Biodiversity Impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Firearms Weapons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Pornography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure Tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy and Emissions Intensive Industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fossil fuels Gambling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Genetically Modified Organisms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illegal Products or Subject to Phase Out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industries at Risk of Human Rights Violations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monoculture Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nuclear Power or Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Payday, Short Term, or High Interest Lending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Intensive Industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax Advisory Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Outcomes & Penalties

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company has had any formal complaint to a regulatory agency or been assessed any fine or sanction in the past five years for any of the following practices or policies. Check all that apply.		
Anti-Competitive Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Breaches of Confidential Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bribery, Fraud, or Corruption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company has filed for bankruptcy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consumer Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial Reporting, Taxes, Investments, or Loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Discharges Into Air/Land/Water (Past 5 Yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Labor Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Large Scale Land Conversion, Acquisition, or Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Litigation or Arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On-Site Fatality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Penalties Assessed For Environmental Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Political Contributions or International Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recalls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Significant Layoffs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Violation of Indigenous Peoples Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## Practices

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the following statements are true regarding whether or not the company engages in the following practices. Check all that apply. If the statement is true, select "Yes." If false, select "No."		
Animal Testing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company/Suppliers Employ Under Age 15 (Or Other ILO Minimum Age)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company prohibits freedom of association/collective bargaining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company workers are prisoners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct Business in Conflict Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Confirmation of Right to Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does not transparently report corporate financials to government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employs Individuals on Zero-Hour Contracts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facilities located in sensitive ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ID Cards Withheld or Penalties for Resignation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No formal Registration Under Domestic Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No signed employment contracts for all workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overtime For Hourly Workers Is Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Payslips not provided to show wage calculation and deductions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Sale of Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax Reduction Through Corporate Shells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers cannot leave site during non-working hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers not Provided Clean Drinking Water or Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers paid below minimum wage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workers Under Bond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Other</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Supply Chain Disclosures

	Yes	No
Please indicate if any of the following statements are true regarding your company's significant suppliers.		
Business in Conflict Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child or Forced Labor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negative Environmental Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negative Social Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Other Disclosure Industries

<b>Topic</b>	The company produces single-use bioplastics
<b>Summary of Issue</b>	Vegware produces and sells a range of plant-based, compostable catering disposables to package and deliver hot and cold food & drink.
<b>Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)</b>	Whilst 100% of annual revenue is from single use catering disposables, not all products are bioplastic. Approx 33% by volume products sold in 2021 were made of bioplastic
<b>Impact on Stakeholders</b>	<p>The single-use plastics industry presents some risks flagged by B Lab as material environmental concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raw materials: the use of oil-based raw materials, which contribute to the increase of carbon emissions throughout the supply chain,</li> <li>• Business model underutilization of the product life cycle, loss of the material economical value,</li> <li>• Generation of excessive waste that takes a long time to degrade.</li> </ul> <p>B Lab has flagged the single-use plastic industry as a material issue and new standards will be created to address possible risks related to this matter. Vegware will have a grace period of one recertification cycle, whenever new standards are available, to abide by the new risk requirements.</p>
<b>Management Practices</b>	<p>Vegware uses <a href="#">plant-based materials</a> to manufacture its products, such as paper and card, Polylactic Acid (PLA), bagasse, palm leaf, NatureFlex, BioPBS, Mater-Bi, vegetable and water-based inks.</p> <p>The company develops compostable products that were verified by the following certification bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK Compost INDUSTRIAL - TUV Austria: Packaging or products featuring the OK compost INDUSTRIAL label are guaranteed as biodegradable in an industrial composting plant. This applies to all components, inks and additives,</li> <li>• Certified Compostable - Biodegradable Product Institute (BPI): third-party verification of ASTM standards for compostable products in North America</li> </ul>

- Composter Approved - Compost Manufacturing Alliance: provides industrial composting facilities an acceptance standard for compostables by performing field disintegration testing through several prominent processing methods to ensure products sent to industrial compost facilities adequately break down within the production cycle.

Vegware is a global brand, operating across a range of markets. As such, its supply chain is spread across a range of territories including the UK and Asia. It manufactures its products close to the source of our raw plant-based materials so that Vegware products are in their finished form when transported.

Since 2012, the company's Environmental team has been forging links with the waste sector, identifying new routes to commercial composting and running large-scale trials at industrial composting facilities.

The company reported that there is a widening phase-out regulation in Europe and the wider market on single-use plastic and plastic taxes, as well as other waste reduction schemes. Country-specific laws and regulations can differ. Although Vegware's products do not use conventional plastics (it manufactures using bio-plastic) some countries have included bioplastic in sweeping bans under the Single Use Directive. Vegware ensures that it is aware of and compliant with each country's requirements, monitoring legislation and restriction of placing goods on each market. The company offers alternatives to those items which have been restricted - such as paper or wood cutlery (which do not fall into the definitions included in legislative bans) as an option for customers previously purchasing bioplastic products.

Vegware also reported that there is growing concern, which varies by country, over the use of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) in oil and water-repellent barriers. According to the OECD (2020), "PFASs are synthetic substances that are widely used in numerous technologies, industrial processes and everyday applications. PFASs, both polymeric and non-polymeric, have been used extensively in various industries world-wide, due to their dielectric properties, resistance to heat and chemical agents, low surface energy and low friction

	<p>properties, etc". Data from the European Environmental Agency show that PFAs are "man-made chemicals that accumulate over time in humans and in the environment. They are known as 'forever chemicals' as they are extremely persistent in our environment and bodies".</p> <p>- The company stated that US States New York and California have banned the use of PFAS in the company's food contact products. Legislation around the use of this material is changing, and although not currently affecting all of the markets Vegware sells to, the company is aware of it. Vegware already offers products that are certified compostable, and offer a different barrier solution to the conventional barriers containing PFAs. Vegware is working towards the transition to a new range of non-fluorine-added products. The company's road map shows its plan to remove all PFAS from its range by 2024.</p>
Management Comments	<a href="#">Vegware Sustainability Report</a>