



B Lab Statement on Berg Kaprow Lewis LLP's (BKL) B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for companies providing tax advisory services:

"Companies in the tax advisory industry are eligible for B Corp Certification if they are able to confirm that their tax philosophy, used to provide services and recommendations to clients, aligns with the company specific principles listed in B Lab's framework, specifically, 1) the tax advice provided appropriately reflects the actual amount of income generated by the client over time; and, 2) the tax advice provided to a client for a jurisdiction appropriately reflects the actual operations of the client in that jurisdiction."

BKL is required to disclose a summary of how it complies with the above requirements as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's position statement on Companies that Provide Tax Advisory Services and B Corp Certification [here](#).

Summary of Company

BKL is a firm of chartered accountants and tax advisers located in London, England. BKL's tax department, which contributes 30% to its annual revenue, provides expert tax compliance services and consulting advice. Compliance services range from the preparation of corporate tax returns for organizations and personal tax returns for individuals. Consultancy services includes, amongst others, advice on employee incentives, tax advice on business expansion, and business sale and purchases. In terms of fees, BKL charges on a time basis, which means that they do not work on a success fee or take a percentage of any tax saved, for example. BKL clients include, but are not limited to, high net worth individuals, families, not-for-profit organizations, charities, owner-managed businesses, larger enterprises and UK subsidiaries of overseas businesses.

BKL's Policies and Practices

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that provide tax advisory services, BKL has a philosophy statement for the tax advice that they provide to their clients and their own engagement with governments and tax regulators, which has been shared with all their employees. The philosophy statement reads as follows:

"Berg Kaprow Lewis is proud of our status as a Certified B Corp. As part of that commitment and in recognition of the role that taxes play in contributing to a healthy society, we use our professional judgment to provide advice regarding tax positions with multiple potential interpretations that accurately reflects the income and operations of the client in each



jurisdiction for which the client seeks our advice based on the details of the client's income and operations provided to us, and do not advise clients to take a position unless we believe it has at least a reasonable basis for being sustained by applicable tax authorities. If a client takes a tax position despite our advice to the contrary, we reserve the right to stop work for and terminate such client. In accordance with this tax philosophy, we engage with government and tax authorities on a collaborative basis and limit our advocacy activities with such authorities to work for specific clients in need of regulatory compliance assistance. We maintain compliance with this policy through regular training of our employees and partners, internal policies on conduct, engagement documentation with our clients, and client retention reviews."

BKL is regulated by the [Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales](#) (ICAEW). The firm is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in its business activities in the UK and overseas. The firm has appointed an Ethics Partner to take a lead role in maintaining the firm's compliance with the ethical rules laid down by the ICEAW, but all employees share in this responsibility.

The firm prohibits any partner or employee from engaging in unlawful activities and, in accordance with the ICAEW's professional standards and regulations, has a duty to withdraw from an engagement if it detects that its client is engaged in an unlawful or fraudulent activity. This duty is outlined in all client engagement letters.

The firm does not support or tolerate tax evasion. It is bound by the [Criminal Finances Act 2017](#), which makes the facilitation of tax evasion an offense. Ethical considerations and non-facilitation of tax evasion are clearly outlined in BKL's employee handbook.

BKL has never been involved in complex tax schemes and works within the framework of the UK's tax codes. Neither does it do any tax planning that seeks to take advantage of tax mis-matches between jurisdictions.

In addition to complying with legal and regulatory requirements, BKL has set up a committee of three tax partners that review specific tax work before it decides whether to take on the client or perform the work if an existing client. As well as using their experience, they use a checklist to keep the quality of their advice consistently high. The quality and standards are maintained with regular continuing professional development training both in-house and through professional training providers. They also provide free webinars to educate other professionals.

Each year every employee completes a "fit and proper" form, which helps BKL meet its regulatory and legal requirements, such as the Bribery Act and money laundering regulations. Each form is reviewed internally before being submitted to their regulator.



B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Should any party become aware of specific company practices, related or not to this topic, that may constitute:

- Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, or claimed outcomes during the [certification process](#), or
 - Breach of the core values articulated in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#) within the B Corp Community,
- these may be submitted through [B Lab's Public Complaint Process](#).