



B Lab Statement on Vermetten Holding'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 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."

Vermetten Holding 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

Vermetten is an accounting and advisory firm based in the South of the Netherlands. The company provides several services, including:

- Audit & Assurance services
- Financial reporting & administration / Accounting services
- Employee services & advice (including payroll administration)
- Tax advice
- Online accounting
- Advisory services

In 2023, 18% of Vermetten's revenue was made up of tax advice and other tax-related services. The company's client fees are fixed or based on an hourly rate. The company provides tax advice only in the Netherlands.

Vermetten Holding'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, Vermetten has a philosophy statement for the tax advice that they provide to their clients and their engagement with governments and tax regulators, which has been shared with all their employees. The philosophy statement reads as follows:



“Vermetten Holding 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 reflect 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”.

All tax advisors working for the Vermetten are members of the professional association of tax advisors in the Netherlands named [Register Belastingadviseurs \(RB\)](#). All members must comply with their professional standards and regulations, and undertake further education and professional development every year to ensure professionals have access to up-to-date information and provide the best advice to their clients. All tax advisors also have to comply with RB’s Code of Conduct. This code of conduct is referred to in the Employee Manual (Personeelshandboek) of Vermetten and the Quality Manual (Kwaliteitshandboek).

Vermetten has a policy to check for conflicts of interest and independence related to client relations. The company also has an anonymous confidant (vertrouwenspersoon) to report conduct that may be unethical, illegal, in violation of professional standards, or otherwise inconsistent with the Netherlands’ professional register for tax advisors’ Code of Conduct.

Concerning the regulatory environment for (aggressive) tax avoidance, Vermetten is required to comply with all specific regulations and reporting obligations for aggressive tax structures at the tax authorities (DAC6) that are applied in the Netherlands, next to all the rules and regulations described above.

The company does not have tax advisory services related to low-tax jurisdictions nor take part in any lobbying or advocacy activities.

Vermetten advises clients to choose a position supported by applicable laws and regulations and/or current/applicable case law. Under the RB professional standards and regulations, Vermetten must withdraw from an engagement if it detects that the client is engaged in unlawful or fraudulent activity.

The company has not faced any litigation or penalties by government agencies in their country of operation for tax advisory services.