



Value Books

Disclosure Report

Date Submitted: December 20th, 2023



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disclosure Tobacco | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and Emissions Intensive Industries | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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"/> |
| Other | <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 - Clients in Controversial Industries

| Topic | Clients in Controversial Industries |
|---|--|
| Summary of Issue | Value Books is a company based in Japan that is involved in the purchase and sale of used books and magazines and was also involved in the sale of products to educational institutions called "Juvenile Training Schools". These institutions are judicial under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ, i.e. Japanese Government) that provide corrective education and reintegration support for the purpose of fostering the sound cultivation of juveniles sent as a protective measure by family courts. |
| Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected) | Indirect sales to the Prison Industry represented 0.003% of the company's FY2022 revenue. |
| Impact on Stakeholders | <p>Companies that work with clients in controversial industries can indirectly increase the harmful impact to stakeholders by enabling business growth. Therefore, companies that work with clients in these industries should have practices in place to ensure that their impact is aimed at decreasing the negative impacts of the industry.</p> <p>B Lab has flagged the involvement of companies with clients in controversial industries as a material issue and new standards will be created to address possible risks related to this matter.</p> |
| Implemented Management Practices | <p>As the company's involvement with the Prison industry is through the Juvenile Training schools under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, the company does not have a public stance on mass incarceration (which is not happening in Japan) yet has a publicly stated mission to "Build the environment where anyone in Japan and in the world have the freedom to read books, to learn from books and enjoy reading books."</p> <p>Value Books co-organized a study tour with a) a non-profit organization "Sodateagenet" who have been supporting underserved youth for a long time and b) a juvenile training school (Ministry of Justice) to visit a juvenile training school after which an employee of Value Books published an article on the company's website reflecting on his interactions and experience; raising awareness of the detention centers and the juveniles that</p> |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| | |
| | are detained there. |
| Report | About Juvenile Training School Ministry of Justice Organization Chart An article by Sodateagenet about support youth in juvenile training school An article by Sodateagenet about background of youths in juvenile training school |



Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Pornography products

| Topic | Sale of pornography products |
|---|--|
| Summary of Issue | Value Books is a company based in Japan that is involved in the purchase and sale of used books and magazines and has been involved in the purchase and sale of pornography products such as magazines and DVDs over the last 5 years. Value Books has formally committed to no longer have pornography products as part of their business. |
| Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected) | Revenue from pornography products represented 0.4% of the company's FY2022 total revenue. |
| Impact on Stakeholders | <p>The growth of the pornography industry has a number of controversies attached to it, the increasingly violent industry presents ethical and moral issues as well as poses a challenge to public health, normalizing violent behavior and relationships and contributing to notions of inequality for women.</p> <p>In addition, the pornography industry has had proven associations to human rights violations, child pornography and sex trafficking.</p> <p>Companies currently involved with the pornography are not currently permitted to pursue B Corp Certification, as standards have not yet been developed to manage the risks from this industry.</p> |
| Implemented Management Practices | <p>Value Books had controls in place to only acquire approved pornography products that complied with both Japanese Law and self-regulation. The company also had implemented measures to restrict access to areas where these products were stored in their warehouse.</p> <p>The company was not involved in buying or selling illegal or unapproved products. In addition to not selling illegal pornographic products, in 2023, the company has decided to discontinue the sale of pornography products in general, and it will no longer form part of their business.</p> |
| Report | Value Books public commitment to cease the purchase and sale of pornographic products. |