



## **B Lab Statement on Airbox'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 operating in or selling to the prison industry, including companies utilising prison labour:

B Lab and its independent Standards Advisory Council have determined that companies operating in the prison industry are ineligible for B Corp certification. In addition, companies in the U.S. and Canada who sell to prisons, including companies that use prison labour, are placed under an indefinite certification moratorium and are not eligible for B Corp Certification.

B Lab and its independent Standards Advisory Council have determined that, outside of the U.S. and Canada, companies selling to the prison industry, including companies using prison labour, are eligible for B Corp Certification if they have not engaged in specific prohibited practices in the last five years AND are meeting additional industry specific practice requirements.

As a Certified B Corp that supplies to prisons, Airbox S.A. is required to disclose a summary of how it complies with these industry requirements. For more information on the specific requirements, please refer to B Lab's statement on companies operating in or selling to the prison industry [here](#).

## **Summary of Company**

Airbox is a company based in Spain that specializes in providing services for respiratory protection in projects related to air and gases. Their focus is respiratory safety and protection, industrial gases and food CO2. Airbox operates in Spain, Brazil and Colombia.

In 2022, 3% of the company's revenue was earned with the prison industry. Airbox S.A. undertakes to carry out the maintenance service for the equipment of autonomous breathing (ERA) of intervention and escape equipment of CP Women's Penitentiary Centers Bcn, CP Open Bcn, CP Quatre Camins, BP Joves, PHPT, CP Lledoners, CP Open de Girona and CP Puig de les Basses (lot 1) and the Penitentiary Centers CP Brians 1, CP Brians 2, CP Mas d'Enric, CP Obert de Tarragona, CP Ponent and CP Obert de Lleida (lot 2), with strict subjection to the content of their offer, in set of particular administrative clauses, to the set of technical prescriptions, to its annexes and to chart of characteristics, contractual documents that they accept without reservation.

## **Airbox's Disclosure on Prohibited Practices**

*Companies selling to the prison industry, including companies using prison labour, that have engaged in the following practices in the last five years, as demonstrated through company disclosures or through material, justified, and unresolved stakeholder concerns, are currently ineligible for B Corp Certification:*

- *Companies that contribute to the construction of new prisons or supply products and/or services designed to restrain or subdue people who are incarcerated, inflict harm or potentially used to inflict harm on people in prisons or other individuals, etc. are currently ineligible for B Corp Certification.*
- *Companies engaged in any form of lobbying or policy advocacy that directly or indirectly support mass, or increasing rates of, incarceration or prevent reform attempts to reduce incarceration. This includes membership, Board involvement, or funding of industry associations that engage in such lobbying activities.*
- *Companies with material, justified, and unresolved complaints about product quality, product price and/or work conditions for people in prisons.*

Airbox does not engage in any form of lobbying or policy advocacy that directly or indirectly support mass, or increasing rates of, incarceration or prevent reform attempts to reduce incarceration. The company does not have any material, justified, and unresolved complaints about product quality, product price and/or work conditions for people in prisons.

## **Required Best Practices - Companies Selling to the Prison Industry, Including Companies Using Prison Labor**

*In order to be eligible, companies selling to the prison industry, including companies using prison labor, must be able to demonstrate that they have the following practices in place and disclose them on their B Corp Profile:*

1. *A transparent mechanism to measure the impact of its products, services, policies and/or activities on reducing recidivism and outcomes for people in prisons and proof of positive impact deemed rigorous as a result of, for example, third party assessment and/or existing primary research.*

Airbox provides respiratory safety and protection, industrial gases and supplies of CO<sub>2</sub> to their customers. Their service with prisons involves supplying and maintaining self-contained breathing equipment used in emergencies. They also carry out training on use and response to this type of eventuality. They help to improve the safety conditions of all personnel, whether civil servants or interns (occupational risk prevention-emergency response).

Penitentiary Centers in Spain are governed by Organic Law 1/1979, of September 26, General Penitentiary. This law specifies that centres must comply with occupational risk prevention

measures and therefore must comply with the Law 31/1995 of November 8 on Occupational Risk Prevention. By law, establishments need to be equipped with personal protective equipment and be prepared to address emergencies, depending on the risks or possible emergency situations.

Prisons and correctional centres are responsible for the safety of individuals that oftentimes are not in the position to protect themselves in certain emergencies. Given that, emergency preparedness, which includes available appropriate emergency equipment, emergency plans and procedures and personnel training, is critical to manage crisis situations and mitigate risks that could represent a risk to people's safety and integrity<sup>1</sup>.

2. *A public stance against mass, or increasing rates of, incarceration and other material issues related to the prison industry, approved by the highest level of governance (e.g., Board of Directors) within the company, and a commitment to making efforts towards collective action and/or engagement with stakeholders, focused on improving how people who are incarcerated are viewed and treated before, during and after incarceration.*

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that work with prison suppliers, Airbox has the following philosophy in regards to mass incarceration, collective action and government affairs. The philosophy statement reads as follows:

*Airbox S.A. has a public stance against mass incarceration or rising incarceration rates and other material issues related to the prison industry. This position is approved by the highest level of government within the company (Management Committee). In addition, we are committed to make efforts towards stakeholders, focusing on improving the way that people who are incarcerated are seen and treated before, during and after imprisonment.*

*Likewise, Airbox does not participate in any forum, lobby, business association nor promotes mass incarceration of the population, the prison industry is an exclusive activity of government agencies of Spain.*

3. *Public disclosure detailing the company's approach to government affairs, inclusive of lobbying/advocacy and political activities. This should include disclosure of the material issues that the company lobbies/advocates for, their trade associations, and the controls they have in place in regards to political contributions, lobbying/advocacy on the company's behalf, revolving door policy, political contributions and donations.*

Airbox's position on lobbying activities is conservative. The company does not lobby or advocate for any policies or issues related to the prison industry, nor is it a member of any trade association directly or indirectly associated with the prison industry in Spain. They have their

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<sup>1</sup> A Guide to Preparing for and Responding to Prison Emergencies (U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections, 2005). Available here: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/020293.pdf>

[Code of Ethics](#) in which they position themselves against any form of bribery to individuals, companies and authorities and political parties.

Airbox is member of Spanish Quality Association (AEC), Professional Association of Firefighters (APTb), Spanish Fire-fighting Association (ASELF), Association of Protective Equipment Companies Individual (ASEPAL), National Association for the Standardisation of Equipment and Industrial Safety (BEQUINOR), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA - USA) and Spanish Association for Standardisation (UNE).

4. *Policies and practices to address the concerns of mass, or increasing rates of, incarceration and the prison industry in other aspects of its operations, including its charitable efforts, fair chance hiring practices, customer screenings, affected stakeholders incorporated in governance structure, etc.*

In accordance with the provisions of the Human Rights Respect Policy, Airbox expresses its total rejection of child labor and forced or compulsory labor and undertakes to respect freedom of association and collective bargaining, the right to circulate freely within each country, non-discrimination for any condition or circumstance, the rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples in the places where it develops its activity, as well as to favor an open dialogue that integrates different cultural frameworks.

Airbox has committed to not sell or provide any product or services that can contribute to the construction of prisons or increase incarceration rates. The only products and services they sell to the prison industry are to assist people in case of emergencies that require respiratory protection.

### **Required Best Practices - Companies Selling to the Prison Industry**

5. *The company can prove that its products/services reduce recidivism and/or produce positive outcomes for people during and/or after incarceration. For example,*
  - a. *The company delivers training/skills building services proven to increase rates of employment after incarceration, or*
  - b. *The company supplies products or services that meet the basic needs that can be proven to increase the health and wellbeing of people who are incarcerated while in prisons (e.g. food, clothing, healthcare, entertainment, maintenance, etc. that are better options than otherwise available).*

The company provides respiratory emergency equipment and training to ensure the Penitentiary Centers are meeting legal requirements and increasing the safety of people in prisons. Training is conducted with prison officers and workers of prison centres to ensure personnel preparedness to manage emergency situations. Emergency preparedness is critical to manage

crisis situations and mitigate risks that could represent a risk to people's safety and integrity<sup>2</sup>. Airbox instructional services include simulations and drills.

6. *For companies that charge people who are incarcerated and/or individuals acting on their behalf for products/services, the company can prove that its products/services are affordable for people in prison.*

*For example, a basic version of the products or services (meeting basic quality and safety standards) are offered at a price proportionate to the income available to people who are incarcerated.*

Airbox does not charge people who are incarcerated. All products and services are paid by the governmental department of Justice (Generalitat de Catalunya).

7. *The company maintains a transparent quality assurance system that includes direct and private feedback from affected people and where possible, takes action based on the feedback.*

Airbox S.A. is ISO 9001 certified for their Quality Management System. All Airbox's products and services delivered by suppliers must comply with the quality and safety standards and parameters required by applicable laws, paying special attention to compliance with prices, delivery times and safety conditions. Airbox S.A. also has a complaint process that analyses any complaint, resolves it and manages activities in order to avoid new occurrences in the future.

The company has established a [whistleblowing channel](#) in order to promote compliance with the legality and the rules of conduct established in this [Code of Ethics](#) by its professionals or interested parties and the complaint of possible irregular actions or acts contrary to the legality or the company's policies.

Airbox S.A. has a Customer Care department that manages all process relationships with customers. In case they receive any complaint, customers are contacted by the staff and to explain the issue. In addition, the quality department manages a yearly satisfaction inquiry to all customer databases.

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<sup>2</sup> A Guide to Preparing for and Responding to Prison Emergencies (U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Corrections, 2005). Available here: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/020293.pdf>