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## William-Sonoma Inc. fined over \$3 million in civil penalty by court

### Description

Williams-Sonoma, a high-end kitchen store, has been ordered to pay over \$3 million in civil penalties for falsely claiming that its products were made in the USA when they were actually made in China. The company, which owns several popular brands like Pottery Barn and West Elm, violated a 2020 FTC order and has agreed to a settlement.

The Justice Department and the FTC found that Williams-Sonoma Inc. misled consumers about the origin of its products, leading to the record-setting civil penalty. As part of the settlement, the company must also keep accurate records of its product manufacturing and admit to its deceptive practices.

This latest development comes after the FTC sued Williams-Sonoma in 2020 for advertising certain product lines as being made in the U.S. when they were not. The company has yet to respond to requests for comment.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **Falsely** // (adverb): In a way that is not based on truth or facts.
2. **Civil penalties** // (noun): Monetary fines imposed in civil lawsuits.
3. **Violated** // (verb): Broken or failed to comply with a rule or law.
4. **Misled** // (verb): Deceived or led in the wrong direction.
5. **Deceptive** // (adjective): Intending to mislead or trick.
6. **Settlement** // (noun): An agreement or resolution of a dispute.

### Vocabulary quizzes

#### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What is a common consequence for misconduct in the workplace?  
Option: Union expansion  
Option: Fired  
Option: Escalated  
Option: Far-reaching
2. What term refers to organized efforts by workers to improve working conditions?  
Option: Depreciation



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- Option: Labor movements  
Option: Surge  
Option: Geopolitical
3. What is the term for imposing rules and restrictions to control a specific activity?  
Option: Civil penalties  
Option: Violated  
Option: Regulate  
Option: Supporter
4. What does it mean to give the wrong impression or lead someone in the wrong direction?  
Option: Falsely  
Option: Settlement  
Option: Misled  
Option: Deceptive
5. Which term is used to describe incoming sources of money or goods?  
Option: Disruption  
Option: Inflows  
Option: Criticized  
Option: Terminations
6. Who is someone who advocates for or backs a particular cause or person?  
Option: Settlement  
Option: Supporter  
Option: Controversy  
Option: Preposterous
7. What is the reduction in the value of an asset over time?  
Option: Depreciation  
Option: Implications  
Option: Reserves  
Option: Escalated
8. What does it mean to make a statement or situation less confusing and more understandable?  
Option: Clarify  
Option: Unionization  
Option: Organized labor  
Option: Far-reaching
9. Which term describes consequences or effects that extend widely and deeply?  
Option: Geopolitical  
Option: Far-reaching



Option: Implications

Option: Surge

10. What is the term for when a situation intensifies or becomes more serious?

Option: Union expansion

Option: Escalated

Option: Supporter

Option: Regulate

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to increased bargaining power for workers.

12. Public figures often find themselves in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_ due to their actions.

13. If rules are broken it is said that they have been \_\_\_\_\_.

14. A sudden and large increase in something is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

15. Minor offenses can result in having to pay \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Disputes can sometimes be resolved outside of court through a \_\_\_\_\_.

17. Employment can come to an end through layoffs or \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Issues that involve both politics and geography are considered \_\_\_\_\_.

19. When workers come together to push for better conditions it is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

20. The potential results or outcomes of a decision are its \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The introduction of new technology caused a major in the industry.
22. The author was widely for the controversial statements made in the book.
23. The workers voted to pursue to have a stronger voice in negotiations.
24. He was accused of claiming to have a degree he did not possess.



25. The company used advertising to lure customers into buying their products.
26. The approval of a new contract led to plans for across multiple regions.
27. The idea that aliens built the pyramids is simply .
28. The company was fined for having environmental regulations.
29. Historically strong have led to significant improvements in working conditions.
30. The company decided to tap into its emergency to cover unexpected expenses.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Fired 2. Labor movements 3. Regulate 4. Misled 5. Inflows 6. Supporter 7. Depreciation 8. Clarify 9. Far-reaching 10. Escalated

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Union expansion 12. Controversy 13. Violated 14. Surge 15. Civil penalties 16. Settlement 17. Terminations 18. Geopolitical 19. Organized labor 20. Implications

**Matching sentence:** 1. Disruption 2. Criticized 3. Unionization 4. Falsely 5. Deceptive 6. Union expansion 7. Preposterous 8. Violated 9. Labor movements 10. Reserves

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL1

### Date Created

2024/04/28

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