

2021

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TRADE NEWS

SNAPSHOT



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EAC's Corner

CBP Wins 2021 Sammies

New on @CBPTradeGov

CBP Trade in the News



Greetings all! It was quite the busy summer for the Office of Trade (OT). I would like to take a moment to heartily congratulate the entire CBP Forced Labor Team on the well-deserved Sammies People's Choice Award win. This is a tremendous honor for the Agency. Recently, I traveled to Long Beach, California to visit OT staff and key trade stakeholders on the west coast. In addition to a town hall and several meetings with OT and CBP personnel in Long Beach, I also participated in several meetings with industry partners to hear their thoughts and concerns on important trade issues. Their support is so important. Simply put, we can't accomplish our mission without our partners. I'm looking forward to closing the book on this fiscal year and taking on the challenges that lie ahead!

-AnnMarie Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade



CBP's Forced Labor Team Wins the People's Choice Award in the Partnership for Public Service's 2021 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals

CBP Team is Awarded the 2021 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals People's Choice Award

CBP's agency-wide forced labor team received the 2021 Service to America Medals ("Sammies") People's Choice Award by the nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service.

"I'm incredibly proud of the CBP team for being recognized as the People's Choice Award winner in the Partnership for Public Service's 2021 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals," said Acting CBP

Commissioner Troy Miller. "Eliminating forced labor from U.S. supply chains is a priority for CBP and we remain dedicated to ending this egregious abuse of human rights."

Led by Executive Director Ana B. Hinojosa and Deputy Executive Director Eric Choy, CBP's forced labor team is responsible for investigating goods suspected of being made with forced labor and preventing them from entering the United States.

"Our forced labor team is committed to its mission and works exceptionally hard to investigate allegations of forced labor in U.S. supply chains," said AnnMarie Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade. "The information that they uncover enables us to take strong enforcement actions to keep illicit goods out of our country, stores, and homes."

According to the International Labour Organization, as of 2016, 25 million people suffer under conditions of forced labor around the world. Those conditions include physical and sexual violence, debt bondage, withholding of wages, and other human rights abuses. Goods made by forced labor hurt workers, undermine law-abiding U.S. businesses, and subject unsuspecting American consumers to making unethical purchases.

Under Executive Director Hinojosa's and Deputy Executive Director Choy's leadership, CBP has developed a robust civil investigative program to identify forced labor in U.S. supply chains and take appropriate enforcement actions. When CBP has reasonable suspicion that certain goods are made by forced labor, the agency will issue a Withhold Release Order to prevent those goods from being imported into the United States. CBP can also issue monetary penalties for certain forced labor offenses and refer cases to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations for criminal investigation. [Read more.](#)

Popular on @CBPTradeGov

- 8/25: @CBP can trace its origins as a U.S. Government agency all the way back to the first U.S. Congress. Learn more about our history, and the large role international trade has played throughout, at go.usa.gov/xFw7z
- 9/2: Yesterday, the Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC) held an appreciation ceremony recognizing @CBPDirNYNJ and @USDA_AMS for refusing a shipment of 630 cases of olive oil falsely claiming U.S. organic standards, intercepted as a result of CTAC targeting efforts.
- 9/17: Effective immediately, @CBP will temporarily close and re-route traffic from the Port of Del Rio to the Port of Eagle Pass to manage resources more effectively and to ensure uninterrupted flow of trade and travel.



CBP.gov/Trade
@CBPTradeGov

CBPTrade in the News

- Customs officers seize counterfeit jewelry that if genuine would have been worth \$5.2 million – CNN – 9/5
- U.S. cracks down on imported goods made by Uyghurs and other victims of forced labor – NBC News – 9/6
- Fake COVID-19 vaccine cards smuggled into US through international mail – Washington Examiner – 9/9

The Trade News Snapshot is a monthly newsletter from the Office of Trade highlighting important programs, information, and updates for our trade partners and the public.

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CBP Issues Forced Labor Finding on Top Glove Corporation Bhd.

CBP announced on September 9 that was modifying the forced labor Finding on Top Glove Corporation Bhd. Effective September 10, CBP started permitting the importation of disposable gloves made at Top Glove Corporation Bhd. (Top Glove) facilities in Malaysia.

"Withhold Release Orders and Findings send a strong message to U.S. importers about the costs associated with doing business with entities that exploit forced labor, but they also offer a path to remediation," said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "This is a great example of the extraordinary efforts of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to protect human rights, and American consumers and businesses from goods made by modern slavery."

"CBP modified a Finding after thoroughly reviewing evidence that Top Glove has addressed all indicators of forced labor identified at its Malaysian facilities," said CBP Acting Commissioner Troy Miller. "Top Glove's actions in response to the Withhold Release Order, which include issuing more than \$30 million in remediation payments to workers and improving labor and living conditions at the company's facilities, suggest that CBP's enforcement efforts provide a strong economic incentive for entities to eliminate forced labor from their supply chains."

On March 29, 2021, CBP published a Finding in the Customs Bulletin and the Federal Register against disposable gloves produced in Malaysia by Top Glove. CBP personnel were instructed to begin seizing shipments of those gloves due to information indicating that Top Glove used forced labor to produce them.

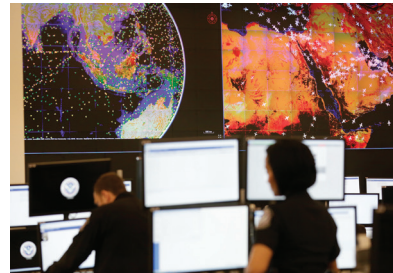
The Finding expanded upon a Withhold Release Order (WRO) that CBP issued in July 2020. That WRO was based on reasonable suspicion of multiple forced labor indicators in Top Glove's production process, including debt bondage, excessive overtime, abusive working and living conditions, and retention of identity documents.

19 U.S.C. 1307 prohibits the importation of merchandise produced, wholly or in part, by convict labor, forced labor, and/or indentured labor, including forced or indentured child labor. When CBP has information reasonably indicating that imported goods are made by forced labor, the agency will order personnel at U.S. ports of entry to detain shipments of those goods. Importers of detained shipments will forfeit the merchandise if they do not export their shipments or demonstrate – in accordance with the requirements of 19 C.F.R. §12.43 – that the merchandise was not produced with forced labor. [Read more.](#)

Customs Broker Continuing Education Requirement Notice for Proposed Rulemaking

On September 10, OT published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register proposing the requirement of continuing education for individual customs broker license holders and to create a framework for administering this requirement. The proposal, if implemented, is expected to enhance professionalism and competency within the customs broker industry.

This NPRM proposes to require individual brokers to complete at least 36 continuing education credits per triennial period, with limited exceptions. Individual brokers reentering the profession following a period of voluntary suspension would be subject to a prorated requirement of one continuing education credit for each complete remaining month until the end of the triennial period. The proposed framework would also exempt two groups of individual brokers from the continuing broker education requirement—namely, individual brokers who have voluntarily suspended their license, and individual brokers who have not held their license for an entire triennial period at the time of the submission of the status report as required under 19 CFR 111.30(d). [Read more.](#)



Frontline Magazine article for the 20th Anniversary of September 11

For full article, see CBP's Frontline Magazine

Sept. 11, 2001, are certainly a tragedy and dark day for

the U.S., they're also seen as a catalyst for change that made this nation's security stronger in the long run. A big part of that change was the unification in March 2003 of many separate agencies at the time into one central agency: U.S. Customs and Border Protection. CBP combined the employees, assets, and expertise of several legacy agencies: U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, the animal and plant inspection portions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as trade inspectors. This is a story of how the horrendous events of Sept. 11, 2001, not only unified these assets into one agency, but also how the attacks – and the events of the past 20 years – helped shape today's CBP. The agency is better integrated and aligned, with improved situational awareness across many domains. [Read more.](#)

Latest Trade Federal Register Notices

- 86 FR 50723: [Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Certain Calcitriol Soft-Shell Capsules](#)
- 86 FR 48435: [Extension of the Section 321 Data Pilot](#)
- 86 FR 48436: [Declaration Zone Test](#)
- 86 FR 46963: [Notification of Temporary Travel Restrictions Applicable to Land Ports of Entry and Ferries Service Between the United States and Mexico](#)

New Cargo System Messaging Service Updates

- CSMS #49319147 - [Clarifying Bond Requirements for Pipeline Operators](#)
- CSMS #49315520 - [Updated Cargo Release Production and Draft CATAIR documents](#)
- CSMS #49309958 - [USDA Announces Moratorium on Mandatory Inspections Required by the Walnut Marketing Order](#)
- CSMS #49307446 - [Colombia Trade Agreement Sugar Tariffs](#)