



Detained Shipments

Forced Labor Enforcement

CBP works diligently to prevent goods produced using forced labor from being imported into the U.S. by enforcing the Withhold Release Orders (WRO) and findings issued under 19 U.S.C. 1307.

Withhold Release Orders

When information reasonably, but not conclusively, indicates that merchandise within the purview of this provision is being imported, the Commissioner may issue a WRO, 19 C.F.R. § 12.42(e). CBP requires information that is reasonable, but not conclusive, for issuance of a WRO.

Findings

If the Commissioner is provided with information sufficient to make a conclusive determination that the goods in question are subject to the provisions of 19 U.S.C. § 1307, the Commissioner will publish a formal finding to that effect in the Customs Bulletin and in the Federal Register, 19 C.F.R. § 12.42(f).

Merchandise Subject to a WRO

The importer may export its merchandise to a location outside the United States within 3 months of the importation. The detained shipment will be excluded from entry if:

- The importer fails to either re-export the detained shipment or timely furnish the required certificate of origin by the foreign seller or owner and a detailed statement demonstrating that the goods were not manufactured with forced labor
- CBP determines the proof submitted by the importer does not establish the admissibility of the merchandise

Merchandise Subject to a Finding

The importer must submit to the port director, within 3 months following the importation, a certificate of origin and a detailed statement demonstrating that the subject merchandise was not produced with forced labor. If the proof submitted does not establish the admissibility of the merchandise, or if none is provided, the merchandise is subject to seizure for a violation of 19 U.S.C. § 1307.

Amendment or Revocation of a WRO/Finding

WROs/findings stay in effect until revoked; they may be revoked or modified if evidence shows the subject merchandise was not made with forced labor, is no longer being produced with forced labor, or is no longer being, or likely to be, imported into the U.S. If the proof submitted to the Office of Trade is deemed satisfactory, CBP will modify or revoke the appropriate records.

Monitoring Your Supply Chain

CBP encourages stakeholders in the trade community to closely examine their supply chains to ensure goods imported into the United States are not mined, produced or manufactured, wholly or in part, with prohibited forms of labor, i.e., slave, convict, forced child, or indentured labor. Consider the resources below as starting places.

- Department of Labor's site provides guidance on setting up a social compliance system.
<https://www.dol.gov/ilab/child-forced-labor/>
- KnowTheChain is a resource for businesses and investors who need to understand and address forced labor abuses within their supply chains.
<https://knowthechain.org/>
- Blockchain allows business managers to track shipments and invoices moving through their supply chain.
<https://www.blockchain.com/>

For additional information and a complete list of WROs and Findings, please visit:
<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/trade-community/programs-outreach/convict-importations>