



American Shipping Company

News Flash

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has recently expanded the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) Entity List by including three new companies implicated in forced labor practices from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

Read the full [notice here](#)

The newly added companies are Shandong Meijia Group (also known as Rizhao Meijia Group) from Shandong Province, China, which handles and exports frozen seafood, vegetables, and other foods; Xinjiang Shenhua Coal and Electricity in XUAR, which produces electrolytic aluminum and related products; and Dongguan Oasis Shoes in Guangdong Province, known for manufacturing footwear and shoe materials under various names such as Dongguan Oasis Shoe Industry.

These entities fulfill the criteria specified in Section 2(d)(2)(B)(ii) of the UFLPA, targeting organizations that collaborate with XUAR authorities to exploit forced labor or recruit, transport, or harbor Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or other persecuted groups. Their addition to the list takes effect on June 12.

Robert Silvers, DHS Undersecretary for Policy, highlighted this step as part of a broader commitment to stringent UFLPA enforcement, covering diverse sectors like footwear, seafood, and aluminum. As the chair of the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force (FLETF), Silvers urged companies to be vigilant about their supply

chains. He assured continued designations and rigorous enforcement by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at ports.

The Southern Shrimp Alliance, which had lobbied for the addition of several Chinese seafood processors, applauded the listing of Shandong Meijia Group. The alliance pointed out the exploitation in shrimp supply chains, emphasizing that shrimp processed by forced labor should not compete in the U.S. market.

The alliance estimates that 12 million pounds of Argentine red shrimp processed in China were exported to the U.S. in 2023. The Outlaw Ocean Project, which conducted investigations into these seafood processors, continues to advocate for prioritizing seafood in UFLPA enforcement.

Austin Brush from the Outlaw Ocean Project mentioned that DHS is still evaluating other Chinese seafood processors. He stated that imports from Shandong Meijia Group would only be allowed if proven free of forced labor. Additionally, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has urged brands like Skechers to remove products supplied by Dongguan Oasis from U.S. stores.

Since the UFLPA was enacted in December 2021, 68 entities across various sectors such as agriculture, apparel, and electronics have been added to the list. Ted Murphy, a customs attorney at Sidley Austin, commented on the unpredictability of such actions, advising companies to prepare for potential disruptions caused by sudden additions to the UFLPA Entity List.



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