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I am honored and humbled to be addressing you here as the Office of Trade's acting Executive Assistant Commissioner (EAC). Brenda Smith led the Office of Trade (OT) to some stellar accomplishments, and we are indebted to her for her dedication, expertise, and many years of service. I look forward to picking up where she left off and ensuring that OT continues to smoothly facilitate legitimate trade and enforce our nation's trade laws during this time of transition. For those who don't know me, I've spent the past four years as executive director of OT's Trade Policy and Programs Directorate. I started my career with the legacy U.S. Customs Service as an import specialist in 1989 and have been lucky to have had some wonderful opportunities along the way. This is an exciting moment for the future of trade as we move forward with enforcing a new forced labor finding, embracing a 21st Century Customs Framework, taking on the challenge of illegal logging, and much more. I look forward to working with our partners, stakeholders, and you as we build upon our achievements and pave the way for new endeavors. *-acting Executive Assistant Commissioner John Leonard*



CBP Combats Illegal Logging

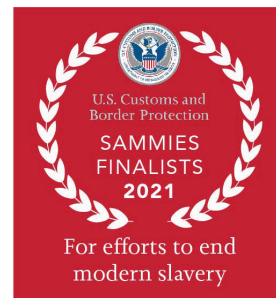
"Ignoring the effects of illegal logging and timber trafficking could result in life-threatening consequences, causing great misfortune to economies, wildlife, and humans," explains Johnathan Nogueira, a CBP international trade analyst. Illegal logging is the third most profitable transnational crime in the world, yet despite how common it is, illegal logging flies quietly under the radar in many countries due to a lack of regulation or high-level corruption. A new article in *Frontline* highlights the scope of illegal logging activity around the world, as well as CBP's role in thwarting shipments of illegally logged timber from entering the U.S. commerce.

CBP works closely with partner government agencies and non-governmental organizations to collect and analyze intelligence and identify high-risk shipments before they arrive in the U.S. Together, CBP and its partners help safeguard American businesses from unfair competition while protecting vulnerable environments and communities across the globe. CBP officers across the 328 ports of entry around the country inspect incoming shipments to ensure compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and Wild Fauna and Flora; the Lacey Act, which prohibits illegal trafficking in wildlife and plants; and an array of applicable customs violations. [Read the full article here.](#)




CBP team selected as finalist for Service to America Medal

The nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service has selected U.S. Customs and Border Protection's agency-wide forced labor team as a **finalist** for the 2021 Service to America Medal ("Sammies") in the Safety, Security, and International Affairs category. The Sammies, are a highly respected honor with a rigorous selection process.

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 U.S. "This Sammies nomination is testament to the incredible work that Executive Director Hinojosa, Deputy Executive Director Choy, and experts throughout CBP are doing every day to protect vulnerable workers, American consumers, and our economy," said Troy Miller, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the CBP Commissioner. [Learn more here.](#) Every **vote** for the CBP team supports the effort to end modern slavery.



Popular on @CBPTradeGov

-  3/29: @CBP issued its second #ForcedLabor Finding of FY2021 against disposable gloves produced in Malaysia by Top Glove. This Finding follows a Withhold Release Order against Top Glove in place since July 2020. go.usa.gov/xsSmj #CBPTrade #TradeMatters
-  4/5: #DYK it's #PublicHealthWeek? @CBP protects the health and safety of Americans by keeping illicit and counterfeit goods, including counterfeit COVID-19 related goods, out of the U.S. marketplace. Learn more: go.usa.gov/xHqCp #CBPTrade
-  4/14: Did you know that CBP made over \$63 million worth of counterfeit footwear seizures in FY2020? Make sure to buy from reputable sources when you step out this spring! go.usa.gov/xHYP5 #FakeGoodsRealDangers #TheTruthBehindCounterfeits



CBP.gov/Trade
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CBPTrade in the News

- **Renewed Biden Administration Commitment To the International Trade War Underscores Importance of Customs Compliance for Automotive Companies** – *JD Supra* – 3/31
- **U.S. Customs determines forced labour at Malaysia's Top Glove, to seize gloves** – *Reuters* – 3/29

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.



CBP Issues Forced Labor Finding on Top Glove Corporation Bhd.

CBP announced on March 29 that it has directed personnel at U.S. ports of entry to begin seizing disposable rubber gloves produced in Malaysia by Top Glove Corporation Bhd. (Top Glove). This finding communicates that CBP has sufficient information to believe that Top Glove uses forced labor in the production of disposable gloves. Merchandise covered by the forced labor finding is subject to seizure upon arrival at a U.S. port of entry.

"Today's forced labor finding is the result of a months-long CBP investigation aimed at preventing goods made by modern slavery from entering U.S. commerce," said Troy Miller, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the CBP Commissioner. "CBP will not tolerate foreign companies' exploitation of vulnerable workers to sell cheap, unethically-made goods to American consumers."

"CBP has taken steps to ensure that this targeted enforcement action against Top Glove will not have a significant impact on total U.S. imports of disposable gloves," said John Leonard, CBP acting Executive Assistant Commissioner for Trade. "We continue to work with our interagency partners to ensure that the personal protective equipment, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals needed for the COVID-19 response are cleared for entry as expeditiously as possible while verifying that those goods are authorized and safe for use."

The finding expands upon a Withhold Release Order (WRO) that CBP issued in July 2020. That WRO was based on reasonable but not conclusive information that multiple **forced labor indicators** exist in Top Glove's production process, including debt bondage, excessive overtime, abusive working and living conditions, and retention of identity documents. This finding is the second forced labor finding that CBP has issued in fiscal year 2021. All findings are publicly available and listed by country on the CBP's Forced Labor Withhold Release Orders and Findings page. [Learn more.](#)

21st Century Customs Framework Task Force Launched

On April 21, CBP kicked off a 21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) Task Force comprised of nearly 50 representatives from the trade community, partner government agencies, and CBP to solicit inputs on initial 21CCF legislative ideas. The 21CCF Task Force was officially announced by Deputy Commissioner Robert Perez at the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Public Meeting on March 17. Through the 21CCF Task Force and other means, CBP will continue to work with its partners involved in all the different aspects of trade to pursue the legislative, regulatory, policy, and technical changes required to achieve the 21CCF vision. To learn more about the 21CCF vision for a more secure, efficient, and data-driven trade environment, go to [CBP's 21CCF page](#) and be sure to check out the new [21CCF video!](#)



CBP Hosts World Intellectual Property Day Webinar

On April 26, OT celebrated World Intellectual Property (IP) Day for the first time with a webinar program focused on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) entitled "Your IP Matters! How to Protect Your Ingenuity and Creativity from Infringing Imports." The webinar was the first in a yearlong series of free webinars that will focus on how SMEs can partner with CBP on border enforcement issues and take an active role in protecting their IP. CBP's World IP Day event was the first of these webinars drawing nearly 280 registrants from the trade community. The goal of the webinar was to provide an opportunity for SMEs to learn about multiple opportunities for collaboration with CBP on IP issues.

The webinar began with a general session, which focused on CBP's broad authority to protect federally registered trademarks and copyrights at the border by preventing the entry of infringing imports into U.S. commerce. Following the general session overview, participants were able to choose from a series of breakout sessions, which included topics such as navigating the CBP trademark and copyright recordation application (IPRR), obtaining gray market and Lever-rule protection, best practices in submitting e-Allegations, and best practices in responding to CBP's requests for authentication of suspect shipments. These breakout sessions were an opportunity for participants and CBP subject matter experts to further engage on these topics.

For more information on "The Year of the SME" complimentary webinars visit:

<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/jpr/cbp-year-sme>.

Latest Trade Federal Register Notices

- 86 FR 16380 – Notice of Finding That Certain Disposable Gloves Produced in Malaysia With the Use of Convict, Forced or Indentured Labor Are Being, or Are Likely To Be, Imported Into the United States
- 86 FR 17055 – Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological Material of Costa Rica
- 86 FR 18550 – Vessel Entrance or Clearance Statement-CBP Form 1300

New Cargo System Messaging Service Updates

- CSMS #46912475 – Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act (CBMA) Enhancement Deployed on April 6, 2021
- CSMS #46857537 – Goods with Country of Origin of Cuba can be Manually Filed in ACE Cargo Release with Valid Office of Foreign Assets Control License
- CSMS #46809016 – U.S. Department of Commerce delaying compliance with final rule, entitled "Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis System," by staying regulations, 19 CFR part 361, from March 29, 2021, until June 28, 2021