

Original email sent from Above Ground on September 27, 2022:

Dear Danby Representative,

I'm writing to you on behalf of [Above Ground](#), a charitable initiative that seeks to ensure companies based in Canada or supported by the Canadian state respect human rights throughout their global operations and supply chains.

We are preparing to issue a publication highlighting potential Canadian business ties to forced labour abroad, which will identify companies that have imported into Canada goods made by manufacturers suspected to have used forced labour. By reviewing U.S. shipment records (bills of lading) accessed through the Panjiva import database, we determined that between October 2018 and July 2021, dozens of shipments of appliances were sent from the manufacturer Changhong Meiling Co. (a.k.a. Hefei Meiling Co.) in China to Danby Products at an address in Canada. If you believe your company has been wrongly listed as the recipient of these shipments, please advise me immediately.

Note that, according to an [Australian Strategic Policy Institute report](#) from March 2020 [titled: Uyghurs for sale], in 2018 Changhong Meiling Co. (a.k.a. Hefei Meiling Co.) received workers transferred from China's Xinjiang region through a coercive state-run "poverty alleviation" program, which has been widely condemned as a forced labour scheme. The U.S. government placed Hefei Meiling on its "Entity List" on July 22, 2020, [stating](#) that the company was "engaging in activities contrary to the foreign policy interests of the United States through the practice of forced labor involving members of Muslim minority groups" in Xinjiang.

Your company may therefore be named in our publication, alongside other firms that have imported into Canada goods from manufacturers of concern. Our publication may also discuss any public comment your company has made regarding its business with Changhong Meiling, or further information you may wish to provide now.

If your company wishes to provide a response for us to include in our report, we invite you to reply to this email by **October 11, 2022**. If you need slightly more time to respond, please advise as soon as possible

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kind regards,
Karen Hamilton
[Director, Above Ground]

More about our research process:

Above Ground's research is based on shipment records ([bills of lading](#)). For many shipments arriving at U.S. ports, including those en route to Canada, these records [are made accessible](#) to the public by companies such as Panjiva and Import Genius. We

searched Panjiva’s database for shipments sent to consignees (recipients) in Canada in which a manufacturer from one or more of the following categories was listed as a shipper or named in the description of goods shipped:

- Manufacturers whose products were subject, as of June 2021, to withhold release orders in the U.S. (These orders are [issued by the U.S. government](#) when it finds “information reasonably but not conclusively indicates” the goods were produced in whole or part by forced labour. The full list of past and active withhold release orders can be found [here](#).)
- Manufacturers that the U.S. government placed on its Entity List on June 22, 2020, citing their involvement in forced labour. (See the [Federal Register notice](#) of the addition of these companies to the list. The full entity list can be found [here](#).)
- Manufacturers reported by the [Australian Strategic Policy Institute](#) in March 2020 as having allegedly employed Turkic ethnic minorities in or from Xinjiang, China, through coercive state-run “poverty alleviation” programs widely condemned as forced labour schemes. (The time range of their alleged participation in these programs varied.)
- To identify Canadian-bound shipments linked to each manufacturer, we ran a search for shipment records with the company’s name in the fields “shipper,” “shipper (original format),” or “goods shipped.” We filtered the results to include only shipments sent to a consignee in Canada during a relevant time frame, which varied depending on the manufacturer. The Panjiva search results are presented in tables that can be downloaded, each line containing a single shipment record. We examined each record to verify that the manufacturer in question was involved, and where relevant, that the goods shipped were those under a U.S. withhold release order. We deleted the irrelevant records, then counted the number of shipment records for each consignee (recipient).

Reply from Danby on October 11, 2022:

Hello Karen,

Thank you for reaching out and giving Danby an opportunity to respond.

At Danby, we believe that ethical working conditions are not a privilege, but a right. We always strive to **do the right thing** to make sure everyone in the Danby family, in Canada and abroad, is treated with dignity and respect. Our new and enhanced Supplier Code of Conduct ensures our supply chain partners **do the right thing** as well.

In light of information presented to Danby about potential Chinese supply chain partner and their treatment of Uyghurs, the existing Danby Code of Conduct has been reviewed, updated and enhanced to uphold our company’s mission statement of do the right thing and makes clear where we stand on critical issues that encompass human rights, environmental safeguards, workplace standards, Indigenous consultation and employee

well-being. **Danby no longer has any business dealings with Meiling** and acknowledge that ongoing rigor is required to dismantle unethical working conditions.

Danby takes very seriously the working conditions and safety of everyone in our supply chains and insists our supply chain partners adhere to four key areas of social conduct:

- Zero tolerance for child and forced labour
- Practise strict health and safety measures
- Provide fair and equitable pay
- Adhere to stringent environmental regulations

Danby is committed to conducting business in compliance with all applicable laws within the countries where it markets or manufactures its products, and will deal only with suppliers it considers reputable. Danby will not do business with companies that violate the law and will terminate suppliers that have run afoul of either local laws, international human rights law or both.

Karen, feel free to reach out to me directly- the two email addresses you sent this request to below are group emails, this is my work email and you can have a direct line of communication with me.

Thanks,
Meaghan

Meaghan Wilkinson
VP, Marketing, People & Communications
Danby Appliances