

## Canadian importers with shipments from manufacturers allegedly using forced labour

Manufacturer, product type	Basis of concern	Sanction(s) imposed on manufacturer	Canadian importers	Date range of import records	Importer response?
Hero Vast Group and its subsidiaries, incl. Hero Vast Canada, clothing <sup>1</sup>	Use of prison labour in China, <a href="#">according to</a> U.S. authorities. <sup>2</sup> (Note that Canada has <a href="#">prohibited</a> the importation of goods made with prison labour since 1998.)	Imports into U.S. <a href="#">banned</a> since Aug 2020	Haggar Canada <sup>3</sup>	Jan – Dec 2018	Unreachable
			Mark's Work Warehouse	Apr 2020	No
Sime Darby Plantation, palm oil products	Information that "reasonably indicates the presence of all 11" of the International Labour Organization's forced labor indicators" in Sime Darby's production process, <a href="#">according to</a> U.S. authorities. <sup>4</sup>	Imports into U.S. <a href="#">banned</a> from Dec 2020 to Feb 2023 <sup>5</sup>	Natu'oil Services	Apr – Jun 2021	No
			Olera Ingredients & Distribution	Aug 2021 – Jul 2022	No

<sup>1</sup> In addition to the importers whose shipment records we found, Hero Vast Group has listed many other well-known clothing retailers as Canadian customers on its website, which is no longer operational.

<sup>2</sup> We were unable to find any statements made by Hero Vast Group in response to these allegations.

<sup>3</sup> We've listed here importers receiving shipments from China either shipped by Hero Vast Group or marked as containing Hero Vast products. We were not able to determine if the goods came from the specific facility where prison labour was allegedly employed.

<sup>4</sup> In response, Sime Darby Plantation [stated](#) that it "is committed to combatting forced labour" and the "allegations made suggest a breach in the implementation of SDP's own strict policies." It [announced](#) in March 2021 it had engaged a consultant to evaluate "labour practices across its Malaysian operations." Further statements about its employment practices can be found at [simedarbyplantation.com/human-rights](https://simedarbyplantation.com/human-rights). The U.S. [lifted](#) its ban in February 2023, citing "satisfactory evidence" that the company "no longer" produces palm oil using forced labour.

<sup>5</sup> The U.S. government also made a formal "[finding](#)" (in 2022) that "Sime Darby Plantation and its subsidiaries are using forced labor on Sime Darby's plantations in Malaysia." Shortly thereafter Sime Darby [announced](#) "sweeping changes" to its operations, including reimbursements to be made to foreign workers for recruitment fees.

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Supermax Glove Manufacturing, Maxwell Glove Manufacturing and Maxter Glove Manufacturing, disposable gloves	Information that “reasonably indicates their use of forced labor in manufacturing operations” in Malaysia, <a href="#">according</a> to U.S. authorities. <sup>6</sup>	Imports into U.S. <a href="#">banned</a> since Oct 2021	Supermax Healthcare Canada	Nov 2021 – May 2022	<a href="#">Yes</a>
			A.D. (Affiliated Distributors) Canada	Jul 2022	No
Top Glove Corporation and its subsidiaries TG Medical and Top Glove Sdn Bhd, disposable gloves	Worker reports of debt bondage, confiscation of passports, excessive overtime, deplorable conditions in worker housing. <sup>7</sup>	Imports into U.S. <a href="#">banned</a> from <a href="#">Jul 2020</a> to <a href="#">Sep 2021</a>	AMD Medicom Inc.	Jan 2021	No
			Ansell Canada	Aug 2020 – Apr 2021	<a href="#">Yes</a>
			Latoplast	Aug 2020 – Aug 2021	<a href="#">Yes</a> <sup>8</sup>
			Limson Canada	Aug – Dec 2020	No
			McCordick Glove & Safety	Nov 2020 – Jul 2021	No

<sup>6</sup> In November 2021 the parent company, Supermax Corporation, [stated](#) that “corrective steps have started and improvements made to labour welfare,” and it [reportedly](#) ordered independent audits of labour practices at the Malaysian facilities. It later announced [new employment policies](#) and [declared](#) in June 2022 that workers at its sites were “free from systemic forced labour” and that it was “not in violation of any of the 11 ILO forced labour indicators.”

<sup>7</sup> See reporting by CBC in [January 2021](#) and *The Guardian* in [2018](#). Top Glove denied the presence of forced labour indicators in its operations in statements such as its [January 2021 response](#) to CBC’s reporting, which it called “thoroughly misleading.” In September 2021, the U.S. [lifted its detention order](#) on Top Glove, saying the firm had “addressed all indicators of forced labor identified at its Malaysian facilities” and issued more than \$30 million in remediation payments to workers.

<sup>8</sup> The reply we received was from Forcefield Canada, which is one of Latoplast’s brands.

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			Protective Industries Products Canada	Apr 2021	No
			Superior Glove Works	Jul 2020 – Apr 2021	Yes
			Wayne Safety	Oct – Nov 2020	No
			Wipeco Industries	Jan – Feb 2021	Yes
Hefei Meiling / Changhong Meiling, appliances	Alleged employment in 2018 of more than 1,500 workers through China’s labour transfer program targeting ethnic minorities in East Turkestan / Xinjiang <sup>9</sup>	On U.S. entity list <sup>10</sup> since Jul 2020; imports into U.S. banned since Jun 2022	Best Buy Canada <sup>11</sup>	Nov 2019 – Feb 2020	No <sup>12</sup>
			The Brick Warehouse	Jul 2019 – Nov 2020	Yes
			Danby Products Ltd. Canada	Oct 2018 – Jul 2021	Yes
			Home Depot Canada	Jul–Sep 2018	Yes
			Stirling Marathon	Apr 2019 – May 2021	No

<sup>9</sup> We were unable to find any statements made by Hefei Meiling in response to these allegations.

<sup>10</sup> The U.S. Department of Commerce’s “Entity List.” U.S. firms are generally barred from selling goods to companies on this list. The companies mentioned here, Hefei Meiling and KTK Group, were added to the list on the basis of their alleged use of forced labour.

<sup>11</sup> We’ve listed here importers receiving shipments sent from China by Hefei Meiling. We were not able to determine if the goods came from the specific factory where forced workers were allegedly employed.

<sup>12</sup> In January 2021, the *Toronto Star* reported that Best Buy, when questioned over its sourcing from this supplier, “would not comment on its shipments from Changhong Meiling, but said in a statement that it has ‘multiple processes in place to make sure our partners are behaving ethically.’”

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			Whirlpool Canada	Jul 2018	Yes
KTK Group, rail equipment	Alleged participation in China's labour transfer program targeting ethnic minorities in East Turkestan / Xinjiang, starting in Jul 2019 <sup>13</sup>	On U.S. entity list since Jul 2020; imports into U.S. banned since Jun 2022	Alstom Canada <sup>14</sup>	Nov 2020 – Jul 2021	No <sup>15</sup>
			GE Canada	Jan – Aug 2019	No <sup>16</sup>
Foxconn Technology (a.k.a Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.), electronics	Alleged participation in China's labour transfer program targeting ethnic minorities in East Turkestan / Xinjiang, starting in 2019 <sup>17</sup>		Arris Canada <sup>18</sup>	Sep 2019 – Jan 2022	No
			Best Buy Canada	May 2019 – Apr 2020	No
			Google Canada	Sep 2020 – Apr 2022	No

<sup>13</sup> KTK Group states that "in 2018-19 it did employ a small number of workers from Xinjiang, who were not ethnically Uyghurs," but that it "has never been involved in the employment of any forced labour." See *Rail Express*, 27 July 2020 and *The Guardian*, 28 July 2020.

<sup>14</sup> We've listed here recipients of shipments sent from China by KTK Group. We were not able to determine if the goods came from the specific factory where forced workers were allegedly employed.

<sup>15</sup> Alstom, the parent company of Alstom Canada, stated in May 2021 that it had recently undertaken "a review of alleged forced labour issues in the Supplier's factories supplying Alstom" and that "no human rights incidents at the plant that supplies us could be identified."

<sup>16</sup> GE, the parent company of GE Canada, stated in May 2021 that it had recently undertaken a review that "revealed no findings that GE or its direct suppliers are implicated in the abuse of Uyghur or other minorities in China."

<sup>17</sup> A Foxconn spokesperson told reporters in March 2020 that "[a]t no time has Foxconn ever had employees in its workforce in any market who have not voluntarily joined our firm." The company also responded to the allegations in May 2021 with a statement describing its process for "ensuring that the rights of each and every employee are protected."

<sup>18</sup> We've listed here recipients of shipments sent from China by Foxconn or one of its subsidiaries. We were not able to determine if the goods came from the specific factory where forced workers were allegedly employed.

Manufacturer, product type	Basis of concern	Sanction(s) imposed on manufacturer	Canadian importers	Date range of import records	Importer response?
			Sharp Electronics	Nov 2020 – Jun 2022	No <sup>19</sup>
			Vertiv Canada	May 2020 – Apr 2022	No
Hubei Haixin Protective Products Co., disposable protective products	<a href="#">Alleged</a> participation in China’s labour transfer program targeting ethnic minorities in East Turkestan / Xinjiang since Mar 2019 <sup>20</sup>		Tribute Pharmaceuticals <sup>21</sup>	Jun 2017 – Apr 2019	Unreachable
Jianhua Zhongxing Glove Co., ski gloves	<a href="#">Alleged</a> participation in China’s labour transfer program targeting ethnic minorities in East Turkestan / Xinjiang, starting in 2014 <sup>22</sup>		Kombi Sports <sup>23</sup>	Sep 2016 – Sep 2020	No

<sup>19</sup> Parent company Sharp Corporation [stated](#) in June 2021 that it found “our company was not involved in the forced labor issue in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. However, ... from a preventive perspective, we plan to further expand our human rights due diligence efforts in the supply chain.”

<sup>20</sup> In response to the allegations, a company spokesperson said [in July 2020](#) that Uyghurs were part of its workforce under the government’s policy of “supporting Xinjiang development,” stating that “[w]e need to develop the western region, let the people there be employed, and improve their living standards...”

<sup>21</sup> This importer was the recipient of a shipment sent from China by Hubei Haixin. We were not able to determine if the goods came from the specific factory where forced workers were allegedly employed.

<sup>22</sup> The company’s [website](#) refers to a factory “set up in Xinjiang province in 2014” that “provides huge opportunities of employment.” We were unable to find any statements made by the company in response to the allegation of forced labour.

<sup>23</sup> This importer was the recipient of shipments sent from China by Jianhua Zhongxing Glove Co. We were not able to determine if the goods came from the specific factory where forced workers were allegedly employed.

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Qingdao Taekwang Shoes Co., shoes	<a href="#">Alleged</a> employment of thousands of workers through China's labour transfer program targeting ethnic minorities in East Turkestan / Xinjiang since 2007 <sup>24</sup>		Nike Canada	Nov 2007 – Dec 2020	Unreachable. See 2020 <a href="#">statement</a> by parent company Nike Inc.

<sup>24</sup> Qingdao Taekwang's main customer, Nike, [says](#) that in 2019 its supplier "stopped hiring new employees from XUAR [Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region] to its Qingdao facility and an independent third-party audit confirmed there are no longer any employees from XUAR at the facility."