



December 28, 2021

## New Trade Legislation Signed into Law

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Dear Valued Customer,

The following legislation was signed into law by President Joseph Biden.

### Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Signed into Law

President Biden signed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act into law on December 23, 2021. The Act provides U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the ability to ban importation of all articles produced in whole or in part in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) or by entities that source material from anyone involved in an XUAR forced labor situation, with or without a Withhold Release Order (WRO).

The ban will start 180 days after enactment, which is June 21, 2022. Additional dates to be aware of:

- No later than 30 days after signing into law, the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force will solicit public comments on how to substantiate items wholly or partly produced with forced labor in the People's Republic of China (PRC), especially XUAR, are not imported into the United States.
- No later than 45 days of the closing of the comment period, the Task Force will hold a public hearing where witnesses can testify to the use of forced labor in the PRC.
- The Task Force is required to submit a strategy report to Congress annually including:
  - A risk assessment of importing goods that use forced labor in the PRC and XUAR.
  - A list of entities that fall in the scope of prohibitions as well as high priority sectors.
  - Tracing recommendations and how CBP can best utilize technologies to identify and trace goods made in the XUAR and entering the United States.
  - Importer guidance including due diligence, supply chain tracing, and supply chain management measures.

[U.S. Department of State Press Release - The Signing of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act](#)

[Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act](#)

### 2022 Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) Changes

On December 23, 2021, President Joseph Biden signed Presidential Proclamation [A Proclamation to Modify the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and for Other Purposes](#). The World Customs Organization (WCO) is tasked with overhauling the Harmonized System (HS) every 5 years, 2022 being one of the overhaul years. Changes to the 2022 HS include 351 sets of amendments in the areas of agriculture, food, tobacco, chemical, wood, textile, base metal, machinery, electrical, and electronic goods, transport, and other sectors. The updated Harmonized Tariff Schedule will take effect January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The HTS of the United States will also include updates to Section 301, changes to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Free Trade Agreement, which is removing Ethiopia due to human rights violations, and Mali and Guinea, due to coups taking place in both countries.

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your C.H. Robinson commercial representative for further information.

Sincerely, C.H. Robinson

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