Removals of Goods Process for the List of Goods

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

U.S. Congress mandates that ILAB produces a List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor (List of Goods), including goods produced with inputs produced with forced labor or child labor.

Process to Determine Good Removal from the List of Goods

FACTOR 1: **Significant reduction in child labor/forced labor**

- DOL assesses whether there has been a significant reduction of child labor or forced labor in the production of the good to no more than isolated instances. There still may be some isolated instances of child labor or forced labor, but such cases are few and at a scale management by the country's existing enforcement and protection mechanisms.

- Information may be qualitative or quantitative in nature and may include government inspection, private-sector monitoring data, and labor surveys. DOL also utilizes information from sectoral experts and government and civil society representatives.
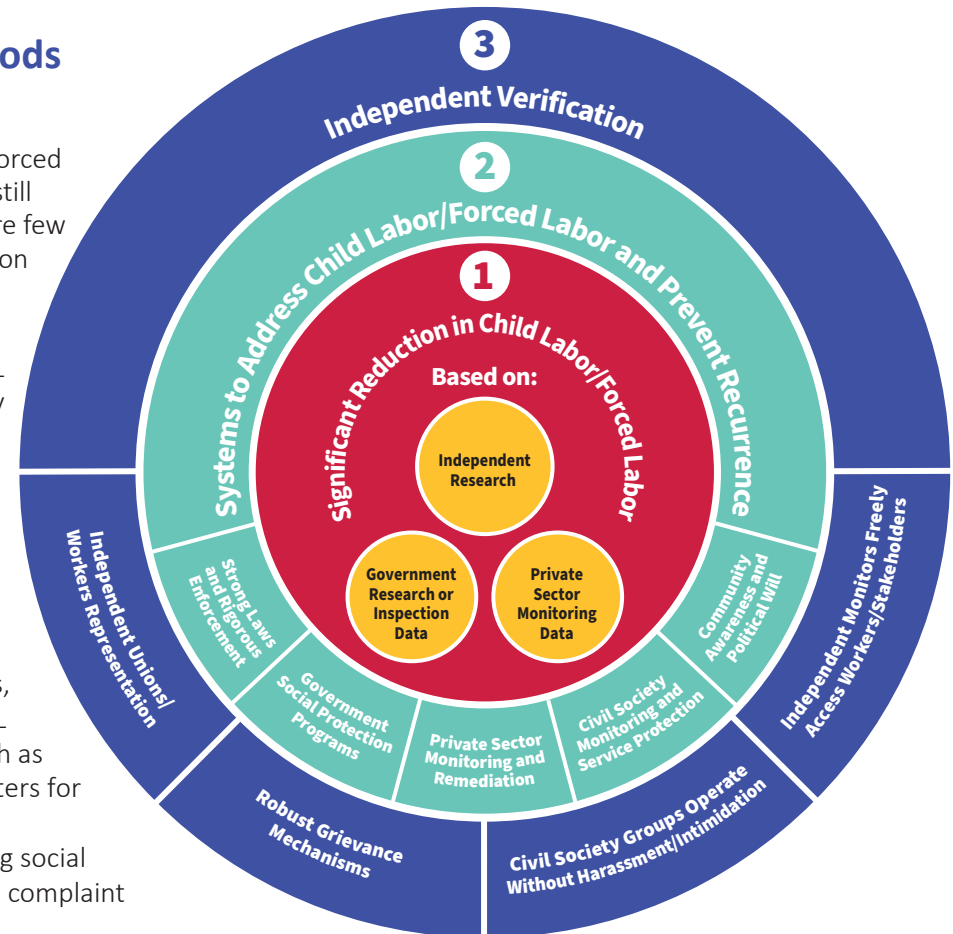
FACTOR 2: **Systems to address and prevent child labor/forced labor**

- If information indicates a significant reduction of child labor or forced labor for the good in question, DOL examines whether safeguards are adequate to prevent and respond to future cases of child labor or forced labor.

- Examples include a strong legal framework related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, a strong presence of labor inspectors in relevant sectors, and the establishment of referral and complaint mechanisms. Additionally, DOL examines the establishment or continuation of social protection measures such as free education, programs targeting child or forced labor, and services and shelters for those removed from forced labor conditions.

- DOL looks for private sector monitoring and remediation mechanisms, including social compliance policies to reduce child or forced labor, and internal inspection and complaint mechanisms.

FACTOR 3: **Independent corroboration of information related to the reduction of child labor/forced labor**

- Indicators include the presence of independent unions, worker representative groups, NGOs representing workers' interests, and grievance mechanisms for labor and human trafficking complaints.

- DOL also looks at whether different stakeholders independently corroborate information from government and the private sector, such as labor inspection or private sector monitoring data.

This document is a resource for understanding DOL's assessment criteria and methodology for removing goods from the List of Goods. To learn more about DOL's recommendations and best practices for addressing child labor or forced labor in supply chains, you can consult DOL's social compliance webtool, **Comply Chain: Business Tools for Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains**, and the **Responsible Business Conduct and Labor Rights InfoHub**.

	FACTOR 1	FACTOR 2	FACTOR 3
	Significant reduction in child labor/forced labor	**Systems to address and prevent child labor/forced labor**	**Independent corroboration of information related to the reduction of child labor/forced labor**
ARGENTINA Blueberries, Child Labor *Removed in 2024*	**Qualitative Assessment:** Interviews with workers, field observations, and desk research corroborate accounts that child labor is no longer occurring beyond isolated incidents. **Inspection Data:** Inspection data provided by Argentina's Ministry of Labor found 0 findings of child labor in the blueberry sector during the 2019 and 2020 harvest season.	**Worker-Driven Social Compliance:** Civil society partnered with 12 blueberry companies to develop a social compliance system, which includes prevention, monitoring, and assistance. 1,200 workers received training about child labor through the system. Companies, in partnership with the government and agricultural trade unions funded childcare centers for workers, ensuring their children receive health and education services. **Trade Union Monitoring:** The National Registry of Rural Workers and Employers (RENATRE) and the Union of Rural Workers and Stevedores (UATRE) monitor the blueberry sector, identifying and removing underage workers.	**Independent Auditing:** The civil society organization, Desarrollo y Autogestión (DYA) monitors the Social Compliance System while the Argentine Standardization and Certification Institute conducts regular external audits.
THAILAND Shrimp, Child Labor *Removed in 2024*	**Government Inspection Data:** The Royal Thai Government reported among the 3,143 fishing and shrimp enterprises (which employed 51,761 workers) inspected between 2020-2021, there were 0 instances of child labor or forced child labor.	**Increased Legal Protections:** Thailand's government revised the Labor Protection Act to eliminate the use of informal subcontractors in the recruitment of migrant workers. **Civil Society Service Provision:** Local organizations provide services and education to groups in Thailand vulnerable to labor exploitation. **Increased Supply Chain Visibility:** Businesses made efforts to improve supply chain visibility through elimination of sub-contracting in unregulated shrimp sheds and development of auditing systems.	**Civil Society Monitoring:** Thailand largely allowed civil society organizations working on fishing and seafood processing to operate freely. Various NGOs, CSOs, government bodies, and private companies have successfully and independently monitored the industry and supported identification and remediation for forced child labor and child labor in the shrimp sector.
UZBEKISTAN Cotton, Forced Labor *Removed in 2022*	**Third Party Monitoring Data:** The ILO worked with the Government and social partners to monitor and observe labor conditions related to the annual cotton harvests, including interviews with workers. In 2021, Third Party Monitoring reported a significant decline in observations of forced labor to only isolated instances.	**Economic Reforms:** Uzbekistan undertook significant structural reforms of the cotton sector to increase mechanization and eliminate quotas, which had historically been a major risk factor for forced labor. **Enforcement:** National inspectors, together with local labor inspectors, made over 13,000 proactive monitoring visits to farms, clusters, and enterprises during the 2021 cotton harvest.	**Corroboration of Information:** Interviews with the ILO, CSOs, sectoral representatives, and the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan (FTUU) corroborated a reduction of forced labor in cotton production. **Collective Bargaining:** The 2021 harvest saw some informal collective bargaining for wages at a grassroots level. Informal bargaining for wages, even absent the existence of legally-recognized independent labor unions, reinforced confidence in reporting that market mechanisms, rather than State-directed forced labor, were driving labor supply for the harvest.