

## California Could Make Apparel Producers Liable for Textile Waste



REDUCING TEXTILE WASTE IS THE FOCUS OF CALIFORNIA'S SB 707. **WOKEPHOTO17 / GETTY IMAGES**

The Golden State could become the first in the nation to require textile recycling after a California lawmaker introduced legislation to create a statewide collection and recycling program for discarded garments and fabrics.

SB 707 would require producers of clothing and textiles to fund the creation of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program. State Senator Josh Newman, who represents the 29th district including parts of Los Angeles, San Bernadino and Orange County, introduced the bill aimed at increasing textile recycling and reuse.

“Though many people don’t realize it, the clothing and fashion industry currently accounts for fully 10 percent of the world’s carbon dioxide output,” Newman added. “The rise of ‘fast fashion,’ which revolves around the marketing and sale of low-cost, low-quality garments which tend to go out of style with

increasing speed, threatens to have a long-lasting and devastating impact on our planet.”

The average consumer in the U.S. trashes over 81 pounds of clothing each year—an increase of 55 percent per capita since the year 2000, Newman said in a statement last week. While most materials found in textile goods are recyclable or reusable if properly sorted and processed, America recycles just 15 percent of post-consumer apparel and textile items like bedding, towels, shower curtains, furniture upholstery and tablecloths.

“By employing an EPR approach, SB 707 will enroll industry participants as partners and stewards to create an end-to-end framework that will reduce textile waste in California while supporting a second-hand clothing market that can continue to thrive,” Newman said.

Thrift stores and other clothing collectors that serve as secondary markets for apparel and textiles will be used as collection sites under the program. Goodwill and similar outfits will become part of an integrated system for sortation, divvying up products for sale and recycling.

“For more than 100 years, Goodwill has been a pioneer of sustainable fashion through the collection of secondhand goods, resale and recycling efforts,” Nicole Suydam, president and CEO of Goodwill of Orange County and

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chair of the California Council of Goodwills, said. “My Goodwill colleagues across California and I look forward to working in partnership with Senator Newman and the California Product Stewardship Council to accelerate this important work and ensure a more sustainable future for all.”

California already leads the nation in implementing recycling models and EPR programs that address end-of-life concerns for products like paint, carpet, mattresses, pharmaceuticals, mercury thermostats and pesticide containers. These programs make producers liable for a post-consumer product’s environmental impact.

“Textiles have been identified as a top material, and the fastest growing category, in residential and commercial waste streams in California,” said Doug Kobold, SB 707 sponsor and executive director of the California Product Stewardship Council. “Local governments face costly challenges expanding textile collection and sorting since the materials can absorb, tangle, and combust if mixed into plastic recycling systems.”

The current system which forces the “cost burden for managing unusable textiles” onto thrift stores, collectors, and secondhand markets is unsustainable, he continued. “Producers keep making products with no plan for what to do with them when they are no longer wearable,” Kobold said.

“California continues to lead by holding producers accountable for planning and funding an ongoing repair and recycling program for managing unusable textiles and apparel,” he said.

State-level action continues taking aim at mitigating textile waste.

Massachusetts recently moved to keep mattresses and home textiles out of landfills, while New York joined California is requiring used carpet collection and recycling. The issue of clothing waste recently made it onto primetime airwaves when “Shark Tank” featured a textile recycling startup that ultimately got \$300,000 out of investor Mark Cuban.

#### **Link**

<https://sourcingjournal.com/sustainability/sustainability-news/california-sb707-textile-waste-bill-clothing-recycling-legislation-josh-newman-421365/>

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## CBP Reveals Apparel, Footwear Detentions Since UFLPA Became Law



[A NEW CBP DASHBOARD BREAKS DOWN WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH ENFORCEMENT SINCE THE UFLPA TOOK EFFECT IN JUNE 2022. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES]

More than 600 fashion shipments have been detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) since the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) went into effect last June, the agency reported in a new dashboard released Tuesday.

The interactive digital tool, launched on the first day of the inaugural CBP Forced Labor Technical Expo in Washington, D.C., offers high-level insights into the sectors, shipments, countries and dollar values caught up in the landmark legislation, which holds the rebuttable presumption that goods originating from China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region were produced in whole or in part by Uyghurs and Turkic ethnic minorities toiling under duress.

CBP has been developing the dashboard "for a while," AnneMarie Highsmith, executive assistant commissioner for CBP's Office of Trade, said during a press briefing at the expo. "We didn't know what data was going to come out of enforcement," she said, pointing to the challenge of compiling the findings "in a way that will provide value to the folks who are really needing to figure it out."

From June 21-March 3, CBP has detained 631 shipments containing apparel, footwear and textiles valued at more than \$29.5 million for scrutiny under UFLPA, according to the dashboard. But that pales in comparison to the 1,627 detentions of electronics goods, which includes polysilicon and solar panel products, Highsmith noted. Of the total 3,237 shipments valued at \$961 million that were flagged for closer inspection, CBP released 1,090 and blocked 424 others. Another 1,723 are still in limbo, while Highsmith confirmed that the agency has received three pending exception requests. The dashboard, which CBP plans to update quarterly, doesn't break down the denials by industry to shield sensitive company information, she added.

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Data on shipment value by country of origin finds China lagging Malaysia's roughly \$419 million and the nearly \$370 million from Vietnam. Just shy of \$90 million worth of shipments flagged by CBP came out of China, suggesting the scale of the transshipping problem.

Third-country manufacturing, where countries beyond China produce goods made with inputs from Xinjiang, is becoming increasingly common, said Eric Choy, executive director of trade remedy law enforcement for CBP's Office of Trade.

What's more, the dashboard's data illustrates the apparel and textiles sector's progress in cleaning up their China supply chains, Highsmith said. "We have been enforcing WROs against Xinjiang cotton since 2020, and so most importers have adjusted their supply chains in order to eliminate merchandise coming from the Xinjiang region already," she said. "We still do see [questionable apparel and textile shipments], but not in the quantities that you would expect."

On top of that, she continued, many of the bigger apparel companies have verticalized their operations and are buying their own non-China cotton to avoid the Xinjiang risk and gain "more control from the cotton field up through manufacturing." Even smaller companies are changing things up, including buying only American-grown cotton.

CBP is trying to expand its ranks to handle the rising volume of inspection and compliance responsibilities, recruiting new targeters, international trade analysts, investigators, and innovation experts skilled in AI and machine learning "who are interacting with some of [technology providers] who are providing tools to help us improve our targeting," Highsmith said. The agency is also investing in technology to be "as surgical as possible in our targeting," and to modernize the "relatively manual" detention processes, she added.

"It's really been all hands on deck because the enforcement mission has become so large," she said.

#### **Link**

<https://sourcingjournal.com/topics/labor/cbp-forced-labor-ufipa-dashboard-xinjiang-cotton-china-supply-chains-423464/>

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## PFCA restriction now applies in EU

Later deadlines in place for other applications



An EU-wide restriction on perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAs) containing 9 to 14 carbon atoms in the chain (C9-C14 PFCAs), their salts and related substances started applying from 25 February. The new rule means businesses can no longer place the PFCAs covered under the restriction on the market as single substances, and they can no longer be used in – or placed on the market in – a mixture, an article or as a constituent in another substance.

This ban does not apply if the concentration is below 25 parts per billion (ppb) for C9-C14 PFCAs and their salts, or 260ppb for C9-C14 PFCA-related substances.

The restriction applies from 4 July 2023 for PFCAs used in:

- the manufacture of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) for the production of specific products; and
- textiles for oil- and water-repellency for the protection of workers from dangerous liquids that pose risks to their health and safety.

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The restriction applies from 4 July 2025 for the substances used in:

- firefighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fire, subject to certain conditions;
- photolithography or etch processes in semiconductor manufacturing;
- photographic coatings applied to films; and
- invasive and implantable medical devices.

The restriction also applies from 25 August 2028 for uses in pressurised metered-dose inhalers, and from 31 December 2030 for semiconductors used in spare or replacement parts for finished electronic equipment placed on the market before 31 December 2023.

## Exemptions

The European Commission has permitted exemptions that allow the production of fluoropolymers and fluoroelastomers, as well as the production of PTFE micro powders.

Until 26 August 2024, the concentration limit will be 2,000ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs in fluoroplastics and fluoroelastomers that contain perfluoroalkoxy groups. But this will then be reduced to 100ppb.

And the Commission has introduced a concentration limit of 1,000ppb for the sum of C9-C14 PFCAs, their salts and related substances when present in PTFE micro powders.

The EU executive said it will review both exemptions no later than 26 August next year.

PFCAs are a subset of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). Echa published last month its highly anticipated proposal to place limits on more than 10,000 PFASs.

## Link

<https://chemicalwatch.com/689237/pfca-restriction-now-applies-in-eu>

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