116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To require certain businesses to disclose the use of forced labor in their direct supply chain, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Buck introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ___________________

A BILL

To require certain businesses to disclose the use of forced labor in their direct supply chain, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Slave-Free Business Certification Act of 2020”.

5 SEC. 2. REQUIRED REPORTING ON USE OF FORCED LABOR

6 FROM COVERED BUSINESS ENTITIES.

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) COVERED BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term “covered business entity” means any issuer, as that term is defined in section 2(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)), that has annual, worldwide gross receipts that exceed $500,000,000.

(2) FORCED LABOR.—The term “forced labor” means any labor practice or human trafficking activity in violation of national and international standards, including—

(A) International Labor Organization Convention No. 182;

(B) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.); and

(C) any act that would violate the criminal provisions related to slavery and human trafficking under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, if the act had been committed within the jurisdiction of the United States.

(3) GROSS RECEIPTS.—The term “gross receipts”—

(A) means the gross amount, including cash and the fair market value of other property or services received, gained in a transaction that produces business income from—

(i) the sale or exchange of property;
(ii) the performance of services; or

(iii) the use of property or capital;

and

(B) does not include—

(i) repayment, maturity, or redemption of the principal of a—

(I) loan;

(II) bond;

(III) mutual fund;

(IV) certificate of deposit; or

(V) similar marketable instrument;

(ii) proceeds from—

(I) the issuance of a company’s own stock; or

(II) the sale of treasury stock;

(iii) amounts received as the result of litigation, including damages;

(iv) property acquired by an agent on behalf of another party;

(v) Federal, State, or local tax refunds or other tax benefit recoveries;

(vi) certain contributions to capital;

(vii) income from discharge of indebtedness; or
(viii) amounts realized from exchanges of inventory that are not recognized under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(4) ON-SITE SERVICE.—The term “on-site service” means any service work provided on the site of a covered business entity, including food service work and catering services.

(5) ON-SITE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “on-site service provider” means any entity that provides workers who perform, collectively, a total of not less than 30 hours per week of on-site services for a covered business entity.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(b) AUDIT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, each covered business entity shall—

(A) conduct an audit of its supply chain, pursuant to the requirements of section 3, to investigate the presence or use of forced labor by the covered business entity or its suppliers, including by direct suppliers, secondary suppliers, and on-site service providers of the covered business entity;
(B) submit a report to the Secretary containing the information described in paragraph (2) on the results of such audit and efforts of the covered business entity to eradicate forced labor from the supply chain and on-site services of the covered business entity; and

(C)(i) publish the report described in subparagraph (B) on the public website of the covered business entity, and provide a conspicuous and easily understood link on the homepage of the website that leads to the report; or

(ii) in the case of a covered business entity that does not have a public website, provide the report in written form to any consumer of the covered business entity not later than 30 days after the consumer submits a request for the report.

(2) REQUIRED REPORT CONTENTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1)(B) shall contain, at a minimum—

(A) a disclosure of the covered business entity’s policies to prevent the use of forced labor by the covered business entity, its direct suppliers, and its on-site service providers;
(B) a disclosure of what policies or procedures, if any, the covered business entity uses—

(i) for the verification of product supply chains and on-site service provider practices to evaluate and address risks of forced labor and whether the verification was conducted by a third party;

(ii) to require direct suppliers and on-site service providers to provide written certification that materials incorporated into the product supplied or on-site services, respectively, comply with the laws regarding forced labor of each country in which the supplier or on-site service provider is engaged in business;

(iii) to maintain internal accountability standards and procedures for employees or contractors of the covered business entity failing to meet requirements regarding forced labor; and

(iv) to provide training on recognizing and preventing forced labor, particularly with respect to mitigating risks within the supply chains of products and on-site services of the covered business entity, to em-
ployees, including management personnel, of the covered business entity who have direct responsibility for supply chain management or on-site services;

(C) a description of the findings of each audit required under paragraph (1)(A), including the details of any instances of found or suspected forced labor; and

(D) a written certification, signed by the chief executive officer of the covered business entity, that—

(i) the covered business entity has complied with the requirements of this Act and exercised due diligence in order to eradicate forced labor from the supply chain and on-site services of the covered business entity;

(ii) to the best of the chief executive officer’s knowledge, the covered business entity has found no instances of the use of forced labor by the covered business entity or has disclosed every known instance of the use of forced labor; and

(iii) the chief executive officer and any other officers submitting the report or cer-
tification understand that section 1001 of

title 18, United States Code (popularly

known as the “False Statements Act”),

applies to the information contained in the

report submitted to the Secretary.

(c) REPORT OF VIOLATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Each

year, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to

Congress regarding the covered business entities that—

(1) have failed to conduct audits required under

this Act for the preceding year or have been adju-

dicated in violation of any other provision of this

Act; or

(2) have been found to have used forced labor,

including the use of forced labor in their supply

chain or by their on-site service providers.

SEC. 3. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each audit conducted under sec-

tion 2(b)(1)(A) shall meet the following requirements:

(1) WORKER INTERVIEWS.—The auditor

shall—

(A) select a cross-section of workers to

interview that represents the full diversity of

the workplace, and includes, if applicable, men

and women, migrant workers and local workers,

workers on different shifts, workers performing
different tasks, and members of various production teams;

(B) if individuals under the age of 18 are employed at the facility of the direct supplier or on-site service provider, interview a representative group using age-sensitive interview techniques;

(C) conduct interviews—

(i) on-site and, particularly in cases where there are indications of egregious violations about which employees may hesitate to discuss at work, off-site of the facility and during non-work hours; and

(ii) individually or in groups (except for purposes of subparagraph (B));

(D) use audit tools to ensure that each worker is asked a comprehensive set of questions;

(E) collect from interviewed workers copies of the workers’ pay stubs, in order to compare the pay stubs with payment records provided by the direct supplier;

(F) ensure that all worker responses are confidential and are never shared with management; and
(G) interview a representative of the labor organization or other worker representative organization that represents workers at the facility or, if no such organization is present, attempt to interview a representative from a local worker advocacy group.

(2) MANAGEMENT INTERVIEWS.—The auditor shall—

(A) interview a cross-section of the management of the supplier, including human resources personnel, production supervisors, and others; and

(B) use audit tools to ensure that managers are asked a comprehensive set of questions.

(3) DOCUMENTATION REVIEW.—The auditor shall—

(A) conduct a documentation review to provide tangible proof of compliance and to corroborate or find discrepancies in the information gathered through the worker and management interviews; and

(B) review, at a minimum, the following types of documents:
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(i) Age verification procedures and
documents.

(ii) A master list of juvenile workers.

(iii) Selection and recruitment proce-
dures.

(iv) Contracts with labor brokers, if
any.

(v) Worker contracts and employment
agreements.

(vi) Introduction program materials.

(vii) Personnel files.

(viii) Employee communication and
training plans, including certifications pro-
vided to workers including skills training,
worker preparedness, government certifi-
cation programs, and systems or policy ori-
entations.

(ix) Collective bargaining agreements,
including collective bargaining representa-
tive certification, descriptions of the role of
the labor organization, and minutes of the
labor organization’s meetings.

(x) Contracts with any security agen-
cy, and descriptions of the scope of respon-
sibilities of the security agency.
(xi) Payroll and time records.

(xii) Production capacity reports.

(xiii) Written human resources policies and procedures.

(xiv) Occupational health and safety plans and records including legal permits, maintenance and monitoring records, injury and accident reports, investigation procedures, chemical inventories, personal protective equipment inventories, training certificates, and evacuation plans.

(xv) Disciplinary notices.

(xvi) Grievance reports.

(xvii) Performance evaluations.

(xviii) Promotion or merit increase records.

(xix) Dismissal and suspension records of workers.

(xx) Records of employees who have resigned.

(xx) Worker pay stubs.

(4) CLOSING MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT.— The auditor shall hold a closing meeting with the management of the covered business entity to—
(A) report violations and nonconformities found in the facility; and
(B) determine the steps forward to address and remediate any problems.

(5) REPORT PREPARATION.—The auditor shall prepare a full report of the audit, which shall include—

(A) a disclosure of the direct supplier’s or on-site service provider’s—

(i) documented processes and procedures that relate to eradicating forced labor; and

(ii) documented risk assessment and prioritization policies as such policies relate to eradicating forced labor;

(B) a description of the worker interviews, manager interviews, and documentation review required under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3);

(C) a description of all violations or suspected violations by the direct supplier of any forced labor laws of the United States or, if applicable, the laws of another country as described in section 2(b)(2)(B)(ii); and

(D) for each violation described in subparagraph (C), a description of any corrective
and protective actions recommended for the direct supplier consisting of, at a minimum—

(i) the issues relating to the violation and any root causes of the violation;

(ii) the implementation of a solution; and

(iii) a method to check the effectiveness of the solution.

(b) Additional Requirements Relating to Audits.—Each covered business entity shall include, in any contract with a direct supplier or on-site service provider, a requirement that—

(1) the supplier or provider shall not retaliate against any worker for participating in an audit relating to forced labor; and

(2) worker participation in an audit shall be protected through the same grievance mechanisms available to the worker available for any other type of workplace grievance.

Sec. 4. Enforcement.

(a) Civil Damages.—The Secretary may assess civil damages in an amount of not more than $100,000,000 if, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary determines that a covered business entity has violated any requirement of section 2(b).
(b) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—In addition to damages under subsection (a), the Secretary may assess punitive damages in an amount of not more than $500,000,000 against a covered business entity if, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary determines the covered business entity willfully violated any requirement of section 2(b).

(c) DECLARATIVE OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—The Secretary may request the Attorney General institute a civil action for relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or any other appropriate order, in the district court of the United States for any district in which the covered business entity conducts business, whenever the Secretary believes that a violation of section 2(b) constitutes a hazard to workers.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate rules to carry out this Act.