

MEDIA STATEMENT ON US SECTION 301 INVESTIGATIONS ON FORCED LABOUR

1. On 12 March 2026 (US time), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced the initiation of a second investigation under Section 301¹ of the Trade Act of 1974 on 60 economies including Singapore, into the acts, policies, and practices relating to the importation of goods produced with forced labour. These economies include Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.
2. The 60 economies include the 16 economies which are also the subject of investigations relating to structural excess capacity and production in certain manufacturing sectors.
3. According to the announcement, these 60 economies were identified on the basis that none has adopted or effectively enforced a forced labour import prohibition to date.
4. The Ministry of Trade and Industry will engage the USTR on these Section 301 investigations.

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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For media queries, please contact:

Carista Wee
Senior Assistant Director, Communications & Engagement Division
Email: carista_wee@mti.gov.sg

¹ According to the USTR, Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 is a US trade law designed to address unfair foreign practices affecting US commerce. An investigation under Section 301(b) examines whether the acts, policies, or practices of a foreign economy are unreasonable or discriminatory and burden or restrict US commerce.