



ฝ่ายเกษตร ประจำสถานกงสุลใหญ่ ณ นครลอสแอนเจลิส Thailand Office Of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

www.thaiagrila.com  [OfficeofAgriculturalAffairsLA](https://www.facebook.com/OfficeofAgriculturalAffairsLA)

U.S. Removed Thai Shrimp from Child Labor Blacklist



Mr. Buncha Sukkaew, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), revealed Office of Agricultural Affairs, Washington, D.C. had reported MOAC regarding U.S. government issuing Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (TDA Report). The TDA report removed shrimp from Thailand on the lists of countries with child labor including Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and EO Lists.

The removal is the result of Thailand's efforts on inspecting fishery and shrimp activities to protect and tackle child labor and forced labor continuously during 2022 - 2023. Proactive inspection and strict law enforcement promote labor regulations compliance and Thailand's labor standard and good labor practices implementation among establishments in shrimp production industry and companies throughout the supply chain. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to protect and resolve child labor and forced labor with 12 private organizations was in place. The objectives of the MOU are to oversee international migrant workers, to eliminate labor exploitation. The report on child labor and forced labor situation of shrimp and fish products was developed to submit to the U.S. for removing Thailand from the blacklist.



ฝ่ายเกษตร ประจำสถานกงสุลใหญ่ ณ นครลอสแอนเจลิส

Thailand Office Of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

 www.thaiagrila.com  [OfficeofAgriculturalAffairsLA](https://www.facebook.com/OfficeofAgriculturalAffairsLA)

The stated efforts are the important factors contributing to the decision of U.S. Department of Labor to remove Thai shrimp from the TDA Report on September 5, 2024. However, the U.S. still lists Thailand in the forced labor country list and adds 3 Thai products to the list including fishmeal, fish oil, and animal feed. Nevertheless, U.S. Department of Labor clearly stated that the TDA Report is the U.S. effort to encourage partner countries to tackle child labor and forced labor problems. It does not result in boycott.

Thailand's Department of Fisheries (DOF) will work with concerned governmental agencies and companies involving in production of fishmeal, fish oil, and animal feed especially feed for shrimps. It is to investigate and resolve the concerns the U.S. has regarding forced labor and production industry of the 3 products. Regarding trade concern, from the statistics of fishmeal, fish oil, and animal feed exportation from Thailand to the U.S., the quantities are noticeably low. During 2020 – 2023, Thailand exported shrimp feed 48 – 150 tons, values at 17.5 – 51 million baht per year. Meanwhile, there was no exportation of fishmeal and fish oil to the U.S. during the years.

Currently, the amendment of Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2015 is in the process of ad hoc committee consideration the draft bill to amend Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2015. The draft bill proposes to abolish Article 10/1, Article 11, and Article 11/1 which are the provision about labor working in fishery facilities because there are key regulations which are already in effect and comprehensively support labor protection in factories. The key regulations include Labour Protection in Fishing Work Act, B.E. 2562, Ministerial Regulation on Labour Protection in Sea Fishing Work B.E. 2565, Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree B.E. 2560, and Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541. Therefore, the abolishment will help reducing the complexity of the regulations while resulting in just enforcement. However, the amendment of Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2015 will not amend any act concerning the protection of labor working in fishing vessel.

Source:

<https://www.thansettakij.com/business/trade-agriculture/606370>

Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

September 2024