

GOVERNMENT

Ralph Lauren probed over alleged labor violations

August 21, 2023



The Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) is investigating complaints first filed on June 21, 2022. Image credit: Ralph Lauren

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. fashion group Ralph Lauren is at the center of a supply chain infringement case.

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On Aug. 15, the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) confirmed that its officials have been looking into allegations of the company's connections to regional suppliers that use or benefit from the use of Uyghur forced labor. Publishing the Initial Assessment Report, the corporate watchdog is detailing claims concerning Ralph Lauren's operational practices, having decided that deeper investigation is necessary.

Infringement investigation

Complaints were first filed on June 21, 2022, by a coalition of 28 organizations.

Documents handed over in support of the filing identify the corporation as the consignee of shipments from entities such as Chinese company Esquel Textile Co. Ltd., an organization already found guilty of using or benefiting from Uyghur forced labor per a report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).

Of note, CORE's representatives are unclear whether or not the submissions reference the Ralph Lauren Corporation (RLC), RLCLP, or its namesake, an international brand and retailer.

The brand is agreeing to participate in the auditing process.

As part of our commitment to transparent processes, the CORE has released its Initial Assessment reports. This report details the complaint filed against Ralph Lauren Canada LP. about allegations of human rights abuses in their operations in China. <https://t.co/iRjzFYRbHm>
pic.twitter.com/SPTpkE1u44

Canadian Ombudsperson (CORE) (@CORE_Ombuds) **August 15, 2023**

CORE is recommending that all parties involved consider mediation as the Canadian authority begins a subsequent independent investigative effort focused on unpacking the proposed link between Ralph Lauren and a slew of potentially-compromised suppliers.

Last year in 2022, Ralph Lauren weathered other conduct concerns as its chief commercial officer resigned ([see story](#)).

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