February 3, 2022

On January 28, 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a Withhold Release Order (WRO) against YTY Industry Holdings Sdn Bhd (YTY), alleging that YTY products are produced, in whole or in part, using forced labour. As a result, Ansell suspended production orders in the United States until YTY has resolved its issues with CBP.

In addition to complying with all country laws and regulations applicable to supporting the rights of workers, Ansell requires that all suppliers comply with our Supplier Code of Conduct, which prohibits child, forced, or involuntary labour. Suppliers must demonstrate their compliance with this policy and are subject to independent audits and self-assessments.

While many single use examination gloves sold by Ansell are produced by our own manufacturing sites, we also outsource much of our production to third party manufacturers such as YTY. Ansell’s most recent third-party audit for YTY in April 2021 indicated that it was compliant with Malaysian labour laws with one exception, which YTY publicly stated was remediated by June 2021. Ansell will continue to audit outsourced manufacturers across our supply chain to ensure workers’ rights and safety are protected. While we consider these third-party audits to be a key tool in supplier management, we also acknowledge that audits represent a snapshot in time and may not identify all labour rights issues. With this in mind, we have engaged directly with YTY management to gain insight into the current issues.

In line with the advice of human rights and labour experts, Ansell’s preferred practice when labour issues are discovered in our supply chain is to work with suppliers to achieve meaningful improvement rather than reactively cancelling supplier contracts in response to specific events or allegations. This ensures continued employment and quality of life for workers. However, if a supplier does not show meaningful progress in resolving breaches to the Ansell Supplier Code of Conduct over time, it is our policy to terminate the relationship.

To learn more about Ansell’s efforts to lead our industry in social responsibility, please see our 2021 Sustainability Report and our 2021 Modern Slavery Statement.

Respectfully,

Renae Leary
Chief Commercial Officer, Americas