



Photo: Whole Foods

Whole Foods suspends business with CP in wake of Thai labor abuse reports

Organic retail chain says it takes 'zero tolerance' on human rights violations.

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United States-headquartered organic supermarket chain Whole Foods Markets has temporarily suspended its business with Charoen Pokphand Foods (CP Foods), following allegations of slavery in its shrimp supply chain.

"Whole Foods Market takes a zero tolerance approach to human rights violations anywhere in our supply chain, and our suppliers sign a contract to uphold that standard," the retailer said in a statement sent to **IntraFish**.

"We have suspended our business with CP Food Products until they are able to provide us with substantiation that they have properly addressed the issue of human rights violations in their supply chain," it said.

The supermarket chain, which has 368 stores in the United States, eight in Canada and nine in the United Kingdom, is following the example of **Swedish retail chain ICA in Norway** and **Carrefour in France**, which both stopped buying from the Thai supplier.

However, **US retail giants Costco and Walmart have committed to continue to source shrimp from Thai suppliers**, saying it's better to

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stay and help create change than abandon the cause.

Following the damning allegations, **which were reported first by *The Guardian* on June 11**, CP Foods committed to eliminate slavery across supply chain.
