



March 22, 2024

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the misleading and inaccurate report published by the Corporate Accountability Lab regarding our operations in San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico. As a trusted brand, it is our responsibility to ensure our berries are grown and harvested in a way that demonstrates socially responsible business practices. Any claims against our network of independent growers in any growing region are taken seriously.

We believe in the rigor of our [Global Labor Standards](#) and third-party auditing system and are continuously monitoring and evaluating our independent grower operations to ensure compliance and improvement in accordance with our Standards. Driscoll's Global Labor Standards are based upon the International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions and Recommendation standards, the Global Social Compliance (GSCP) standards, the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) standards and a collaborative review of agriculture specific standards from several non-governmental organizations. In support of our Global Labor Standards and vision, we share the following:

- Driscoll's Global Labor Standards apply to all our growers regardless of the growing region
- Driscoll's Global Labor Standards support freedom of association, collective bargaining and the right for the farmworker to choose or not to choose union representation
- Driscoll's created an annual third-party auditing system which is focused on monitoring and evaluating high risk production regions and specific areas within the grower's operations
 - The risk management and audit processes include corrective action plans and annual follow-ups for high-risk regions or grower operations to fix any potential labor practices gaps
 - Low-risk production regions or grower operations are audited every three years
 - This auditing system includes Driscoll's owned operations, grower packing facilities, Farm Labor Contractors and Third-Party Locations
- Driscoll's partners with advocacy groups, key opinion leaders, and government officials to raise the standards for the industry and address complex and systemic issues in the food system



Driscoll's has been certified by Fair Trade USA since 2016. Today, 100% of Driscoll's berries coming out of San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico are Fair Trade certified. Fair Trade USA is a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and the leading certifier of Fair Trade products in North America. Their rigorous certification program aligns with our global labor standards and strengthens our internal management systems to continuously improve farmworkers' safety, working conditions, and lives.

To address the specific points raised by Corporate Accountability Lab we share the following:

- The farming operation mentioned in the report was not a supplier of Driscoll's or BerryMex when the report was published in March 2023 as Driscoll's terminated its contract with that producer in September 2021.
- One of the authors brought forward allegations in 2022 to Driscoll's, Fair Trade USA, and the Equitable Food Initiative (EFI) around freedom of association and underpayment of wages.
- As our certifying partner, Fair Trade USA launched an independent third-party investigation of Rancho Agricola Santa Monica with certifying body SCS.
- The third-party investigation conducted by SCS did not substantiate the allegations brought forth.

We understand that the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre serves as an aggregator of claims and allegations with an open space for responses. That said, we appreciate the opportunity to provide a factual and transparent response to the misleading and non-peer reviewed publication.

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Extra information