



The Tech Grapevine

Most Controversial Companies of 2014

#1	Chonghaejin Marine Company	#6	FIFA
#2	Takata Corp	#7	Dongguan Shinyang Electronics
#3	Chang Guann Company	#8	General Motors
#4	Zhongrong Metal Products	#9	KT ENS Corp
#5	Uber Technologies	#10	Neiman Marcus Group

Uber Risks Flagged

By **Pulkit Sharma**

Switzerland headquartered RepRisk, a leading provider of business intelligence on environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks, has released the fifth edition of its Most Controversial Companies (MCC) Report.

The data for the report, which ranks the ten most controversial companies of 2014, is based on information screened, analyzed, and quantified by RepRisk from a wide range of publicly-available, third-party sources.

Six out of the ten most controversial companies of 2014 are located in Asia, and three are headquartered in the United States. Football's governing body FIFA, headquartered in Switzerland, which ranked No 1 on the MCC 2013 Report, is included again in the 2014 edition due to ongoing corruption allegations, as well as occupational safety issues at FIFA World Cup venues.

Uber Technologies is now listed as among the top 10 controversial companies in the world partly due to how Uber reacted to the alleged rape of an Indian woman by an Uber driver in Delhi. Part of the report says

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Uber Technologies, a US company that connects passengers with private hire vehicles via a smart-phone app, suddenly found itself at the center of controversy in December 2014, when a number of its drivers were accused of assault. Since launching its services in San Francisco in 2009, the company has expanded its operations to over 200 cities around the world.

In India, an Uber driver was accused of raping a 26-year old female passenger on December 5, 2014 in New Delhi, prompting the Indian Transport Department to ban the company. Uber, which had promoted itself as being safe, as "GPS systems were installed in all taxi cabs," was accused of misleading customers and failing to conduct background checks on its drivers. The taxi driver was arrested and appeared in court on December 8.

US prosecutors in the state of Massachusetts also charged an Uber driver with rape, assault to rape, kidnapping and two counts of assault. According to the indictment, the driver picked up a young woman in Boston on December 6 and took her to a secluded area where he stopped the car and attacked her. It has been alleged that several drivers working for the company in San Francisco, Florida and Chicago also assaulted passengers in 2014. The company has also faced charges over claims that they operate at US airports without the necessary authorization, and in Portland, Oregon, the city government sued Uber for operating an "illegal, unregulated transportation service."

At the beginning of December, District Attorneys in the counties of San Francisco and Los Angeles also launched a civil lawsuit against Uber over allegations that the company misled consumers about the extent of background checks that it carried out on its drivers....."

Read the full report at the RepRisk [website](#)

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