

MARCH 12, 2025: STEEL AND ALUMINUM 25% AD VALOREM TARIFFS WENT INTO EFFECT

The U.S. government has implemented significant changes to tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, which will impact businesses engaged in cross-border trade. **As of 12:01 a.m. on March 12, 2025, Section 232 tariffs of 25% ad valorem are now in effect on all steel and aluminum articles and their listed derivatives**, covering a wide range of automotive, construction, and consumer products. Additionally, aluminum articles and derivative products originating from Russia are now subject to a 200% tariff.

According to updated guidance from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), importers must comply with new reporting requirements for steel and aluminum products, specifically documenting "melted and poured" / "smelted and cast" details.

Furthermore, all previously established tariff rate quotas and general/country-specific exclusions ended as of March 11, 2025. Currently, there is no process available for U.S. stakeholders to request new product exclusions, and any previously granted exclusions will expire on their designated end date or when quotas are met.

These Section 232 tariffs are in addition to other imposed duties, including recent measures under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) affecting imports from China, Mexico, and Canada.

For further details, CBP has provided updated guidance through the Cargo Systems Messaging Service (CSMS):

- **CSMS # 64384496** – UPDATED GUIDANCE: Import Duties on Aluminum and Aluminum Derivative Products
- **CSMS # 64384423** – UPDATED GUIDANCE: Import Duties on Steel and Steel Derivative Products
- **CSMS # 64375535** – Quota Guidance: Proclamation 10896 of February 10, 2025, Adjusting Imports of Steel and Aluminum into the United States

In response to these tariff changes, both Canada and the European Union (EU) have announced countermeasures. The EU will phase in its response by reinstating previously suspended countermeasures from 2018 and 2020 as of April 1, 2025, followed by a new set of trade actions by mid-April.

Meanwhile, Canada has imposed retaliatory tariffs of 25% on U.S. goods valued at approximately \$21 billion, effective March 13, 2025. The Canadian government has also stated that these tariffs violate U.S. commitments under both the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework, prompting Canada to initiate consultations with the U.S. to address the dispute.

Mexico is currently assessing its position, with indications that it may wait until April 2, 2025, before implementing any reciprocal measures, in response to the U.S. administration's plans for additional tariffs.

Frontier Supply Chain Solutions is closely monitoring these evolving trade developments. Businesses engaged in cross-border trade should assess the impact of these tariff changes on their supply chains and plan accordingly.

For guidance on compliance, customs brokerage, or navigating tariff mitigation strategies, Frontier is available to assist clients in adapting to these regulatory changes.

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