



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Investigations of Imports of Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip from the People's Republic of China

- On March 4, 2016, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced the initiation of the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations of imports of stainless steel sheet and strip from the People's Republic of China (China).
- The AD and CVD laws provide U.S. businesses and workers with a transparent, quasi-judicial, and internationally accepted mechanism to seek relief from the market-distorting effects caused by injurious dumping and unfair subsidization of imports into the United States, establishing an opportunity to compete on a level playing field.
- For the purpose of AD investigations, dumping occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the United States at less than its fair value. For the purpose of CVD investigations, countervailable subsidies are financial assistance from foreign governments that benefit the production of goods from foreign companies and are limited to specific enterprises or industries, or are contingent either upon export performance or upon the use of domestic goods over imported goods.
- The petitioners for these investigations are AK Steel Corporation (OH), Allegheny Ludlum, LLC d/b/a ATI Flat Rolled Products (PA), North American Stainless (KY), and Outokumpu Stainless USA, LLC (IL).
- The merchandise covered by these investigations is stainless steel sheet and strip, whether in coils or straight lengths. Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject sheet and strip is a flat-rolled product with a width that is greater than 9.5 mm and with a thickness of 0.3048 mm and greater but less than 4.75 mm, and that is annealed or otherwise heat treated, and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject sheet and strip may also be further processed (*e.g.*, cold-rolled, annealed, tempered, polished, aluminized, coated, painted, varnished, trimmed, cut, punched, or slit, etc.) provided that it maintains the specific dimensions of sheet and strip set forth above following such processing. The products described include products regardless of shape, and include products of either rectangular or non-rectangular cross-section where such cross-section is achieved subsequent to the rolling process, *i.e.*, products which have been “worked after rolling” (*e.g.*, products which have been beveled or rounded at the edges).
- For purposes of the width and thickness requirements referenced above: (1) Where the nominal and actual measurements vary, a product is within the scope if application of either the nominal or actual measurement would place it within the scope based on the definitions set forth above; and (2) where the width and thickness vary for a specific product (*e.g.*, the thickness of certain products with non-rectangular cross-section, the width of certain products with non-rectangular shape, etc.), the measurement at its greatest width or thickness applies.

- All products that meet the written physical description, and in which the chemistry quantities do not exceed any one of the noted element levels listed above, are within the scope of these investigations unless specifically excluded.
- Subject merchandise includes stainless steel sheet and strip that has been further processed in a third country, including but not limited to cold-rolling, annealing, tempering, polishing, aluminizing, coating, painting, varnishing, trimming, cutting, punching, and/or slitting, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigations if performed in the country of manufacture of the stainless steel sheet and strip.
- Excluded from the scope of these investigations are the following: (1) sheet and strip that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and not pickled or otherwise descaled; (2) plate (*i.e.*, flat-rolled stainless steel products of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more); and (3) flat wire (*i.e.*, cold-rolled sections, with a mill edge, rectangular in shape, of a width of not more than 9.5 mm).
- The products under investigation are currently classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, 7219.13.0081, 7219.14.0030, 7219.14.0065, 7219.14.0090, 7219.23.0030, 7219.23.0060, 7219.24.0030, 7219.24.0060, 7219.32.0005, 7219.32.0020, 7219.32.0025, 7219.32.0035, 7219.32.0036, 7219.32.0038, 7219.32.0042, 7219.32.0044, 7219.32.0045, 7219.32.0060, 7219.33.0005, 7219.33.0020, 7219.33.0025, 7219.33.0035, 7219.33.0036, 7219.33.0038, 7219.33.0042, 7219.33.0044, 7219.33.0045, 7219.33.0070, 7219.33.0080, 7219.34.0005, 7219.34.0020, 7219.34.0025, 7219.34.0030, 7219.34.0035, 7219.34.0050, 7219.35.0005, 7219.35.0015, 7219.35.0030, 7219.35.0035, 7219.35.0050, 7219.90.0010, 7219.90.0020, 7219.90.0025, 7219.90.0060, 7219.90.0080, 7220.12.1000, 7220.12.5000, 7220.20.1010, 7220.20.1015, 7220.20.1060, 7220.20.1080, 7220.20.6005, 7220.20.6010, 7220.20.6015, 7220.20.6060, 7220.20.6080, 7220.20.7005, 7220.20.7010, 7220.20.7015, 7220.20.7060, 7220.20.7080, 7220.90.0010, 7220.90.0015, 7220.90.0060, and 7220.90.0080. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of these proceedings is dispositive.
- In 2015, imports of stainless steel sheet and strip from China were valued at an estimated \$302 million.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determination on or before March 28, 2016.
- If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports of stainless steel sheet and strip from China materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, the investigations will continue and Commerce will be scheduled to make its preliminary CVD determination in May 2016 and its preliminary AD determination in July 2016, unless the statutory deadlines are extended. If the ITC's preliminary determination is negative, the investigations will be terminated.

ALLEGED DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	DUMPING MARGINS
China	51.07% and 76.64%

ESTIMATED SUBSIDY RATES:

COUNTRY	SUBSIDY RATE
China	Above <i>de minimis</i> *

* *de minimis* = less than 1% for developed countries, less than 2% for developing countries.

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATION	CVD INVESTIGATION
Petitions Filed	February 12, 2016	February 12, 2016
DOC Initiation Date	March 3, 2016	March 3, 2016
ITC Preliminary Determination*	March 28, 2016	March 28, 2016
DOC Preliminary Determinations	July 21, 2016	May 9, 2016†
DOC Final Determinations*†	October 4, 2016	July 21, 2016
ITC Final Determination**	November 18, 2016	September 6, 2016†
Issuance of Orders***	November 25, 2016	September 13, 2016

NOTE: Commerce preliminary and final determination deadlines are governed by statute. For CVD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 703(b) and 705(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). For AD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 733(b) and 735(a) of the Act. These deadlines may be extended under certain circumstances.

†Where the deadline falls on a weekend/holiday, the appropriate date is the next business day.

* If the ITC makes a negative preliminary determination of injury, the investigations are terminated.

**This will take place only in the event of final affirmative determinations from Commerce.

***This will take place only in the event of final affirmative determinations from Commerce and the ITC.

IMPORT STATISTICS:

CHINA	2013	2014	2015
Volume (metric tons)	57,300	119,800	133,500
Value (USD)	140,312,000	298,629,000	301,699,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas. (HTSUS 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, 7219.13.0081, 7219.14.0030, 7219.14.0065, 7219.14.0090, 7219.23.0030, 7219.23.0060, 7219.24.0030, 7219.24.0060, 7219.32.0005, 7219.32.0020, 7219.32.0025, 7219.32.0035, 7219.32.0036, 7219.32.0038, 7219.32.0042, 7219.32.0044, 7219.32.0045, 7219.32.0060, 7219.33.0005, 7219.33.0020, 7219.33.0025, 7219.33.0035, 7219.33.0036, 7219.33.0038, 7219.33.0042, 7219.33.0044, 7219.33.0045, 7219.33.0070, 7219.33.0080, 7219.34.0005, 7219.34.0020, 7219.34.0025, 7219.34.0030, 7219.34.0035, 7219.34.0050, 7219.35.0005, 7219.35.0015, 7219.35.0030, 7219.35.0035, 7219.35.0050, 7219.90.0010, 7219.90.0020, 7219.90.0025, 7219.90.0060, 7219.90.0080, 7220.12.1000, 7220.12.5000, 7220.20.1010, 7220.20.1015, 7220.20.1060, 7220.20.1080, 7220.20.6005, 7220.20.6010, 7220.20.6015, 7220.20.6060, 7220.20.6080, 7220.20.7005, 7220.20.7010, 7220.20.7015, 7220.20.7060, 7220.20.7080, 7220.90.0010, 7220.90.0015, 7220.90.0060, and 7220.90.0080.)