



INTERNATIONAL
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SIMA NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, July 2009

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate changes to the licensing system, steel import monitoring and analysis system (SIMA), and other items of interest to help keep the program running smoothly.

SIMA License Website Update

Welcome!

This edition of the SIMA Newsletter announces the revision of the SIMA licensing website and additions to the harmonized tariff schedule. Please read the important information included in this newsletter, which will be useful to your continued use of the licensing system. Updated information will be posted on the SIMA website:

<http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/index.html>

If at any time you have questions about steel licenses or the import monitor, we are available to answer questions you may have at any time.

Website Re-design

Good news! We have redesigned our website to be more user-friendly. Instead of scrolling through a long page, users may now browse our concise and organized display of various tools and data searches. Links to the licensing system, publications, and frequently asked questions can be found on the left. All links to our steel mill product data collection and monitors are located on the right menu. We encourage users to view our new Import Monitor Tutorial, which provides useful tips and instructions for navigating our extensive data.

New Licensing System Update

We are pleased to report that the transition from the old licensing system announced in January 2009 to the new current system went relatively smoothly for both users and the SIMA Team. We did not experience any outage or system disruptions during the transition. While some users misunderstood the temporary password special characters, we were able to quickly adjust the settings, as well as answer questions. Overall, comments of the new system were positive, as users found some of the upgraded options beneficial.

While the transition went well, the licensing system had some disruptions in mid-June, causing the system to be inoperable for two days. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Despite this difficult period, we believe the system has worked well.

SIMA Extension

As you may have noticed SIMA's data collection authority has been extended for an additional four years. While this may seem like a simple housekeeping issue, the extension is important to the licensing and monitoring systems. The SIMA authority has been extended through March 21, 2013 to allow us to continue to collect data through the license system and to provide the monitoring information to the public. The monitoring system is an important tool for importers, exporters, producers, industry analysts, and many other users.

New HTS Codes Added

The International Trade Commission added new codes on July 1st to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) for certain stainless steel rods, replacing three codes. These new HTS codes have been added to the licensing system and appear in the box below:

<p><u>Added</u> 7222110055 - BARS&RODS STAINL STL HOT-WKD CIR, X-SECTION MAX < 152.4MM 7222110080 - BARS&RODS STAINL STL HOT-WKD CIR, X-SECTION MAX > 152.4MM</p> <p><u>Deleted</u> 7222110050 - BARS&RODS STAINL STL HOT-WKD CIR X-SECTION NESOI</p> <hr/>
<p><u>Added</u> 7222200080 - OTH SS BAR/ROD COLD FORM OR FINISH, MAX CS >18MM AND <152.4MM 7222200085 - OTH SS BAR/ROD COLD FORM OR FINISH, MAX CS >152.4MM</p> <p><u>Deleted</u> 7222200075 - OTH SS BARS/ROD COLD-FRM O FIN MAX CS 18MM AOV OTH</p> <hr/>
<p><u>Added</u> 7222300010 - OTH SS BAR/ROD NESOI, MAX CS <152.4MM 7222300080 - OTH SS BAR/ROD NESOI, MAX CS >152.4MM</p> <p><u>Deleted</u> 7222300000 - BARS AND RODS, STAINLESS STEEL, NESOI</p>

Tutorial

We have added two new tutorials to the SIMA website to help take the mystery out of using the Steel Mill Import Monitor. The Overview tutorial presents the different data displays in the Import Monitor and gives descriptions of the types of data available. The Navigation tutorial shows how to access the various tables and graphs in the Import (and other) Monitors, and also demonstrates the table/graph search function. You can find the tutorials on the SIMA homepage:

Overview: http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/tutorials/Import-Monitor-Tutorial_Overview.pdf

Navigation: http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/tutorials/Import-Monitor-Tutorial_Navigation.pdf

Troubleshooting Tips

- **“Page Unavailable”:** If you receive a “Page Unavailable” error while submitting a license, it is a result of the date format used in the dates of exportation and importation. To correct this error, make sure your dates are entered using the MM/DD/YYYY format, including the slash (/) between the numbers. A correct example for July 4th, 2009 would be 07/04/2009. An incorrect entry would be 07042009 or 07-04-2009. With this simple tip, you can avoid this error page.
- ***Forgot Password Option:*** If you forget your password, you should try the “Forgot Password” option on the log-in page. The password recovery criteria are exact-match fields which mean that you must enter what you entered when creating your account. If your Employer Identification Number has a dash (-), make sure to include that. If you entered your first name as “James” or “Susan”, “Jim” or “Susie” will not be recognized. The security questions must also be the same as entered. If you entered “Aunt Fran” as your favorite relative, neither “Fran” nor “AuntFran” will work.

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