

8 October 2020

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Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS

UNITED KINGDOM

Certain Steel Products

The following communication, dated 8 October 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United Kingdom.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards (Safeguards Agreement), the United Kingdom notifies that a review process of a safeguard measure has been initiated as follows:

1. Specify the date when the review was initiated.

The United Kingdom initiated the review on 1 October 2020.

A copy of the Notice of Initiation, which includes the applicable rules of procedure, is attached.* The Notice has also been published on the Trade Remedies Service (<https://www.trade-remedies.service.gov.uk/public/cases/>).

2. Specify the product subject to the review.

The products subject to this review are certain steel products. The detailed product categories, together with the commodity codes within which they are currently classified, are listed in Annex 1 of the attached Notice of Initiation. Those commodity codes are provided for reference purposes only.

3. Provide the reasons for the initiation of the review.

The transition review was initiated at the request of the Secretary of State for International Trade. The review will conclude whether the safeguard measure applied by the European Union¹, which is also applied by the United Kingdom, and which will be transitioned when the transition period under the Withdrawal Agreement pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union ends at 23.00 GMT on 31 December 2020², should be varied, extended or revoked.

In the course of the transition review, the investigating authority of the United Kingdom will, in respect of each product category, consider whether the steel products were imported in increased quantities into the United Kingdom, during the same investigation period considered by the European Union. It will also investigate whether imports in increased quantities, and serious injury, would recur if the safeguard measure were removed.

* A copy of the Notice of Initiation has been submitted electronically. To consult this document, please contact Ms Richards (anne.richards@wto.org) or Ms Naville (delphine.naville@wto.org) of the Rules Division.

¹ G/SG/N/10/EU/1/Suppl.7.

² WT/GC/206.

The investigating authority is expected to conclude the review by 30 June 2021.

4. Provide a point of contact for the review and identify the preferred means for corresponding.

Any enquiries should be emailed to TF0006@traderemedies.gov.uk.

5. Provide the deadlines and procedures for importers, exporters and other interested parties to present evidence and their views, including (i) deadlines and procedures for members and exporters to identify themselves as interested parties, if so required, to participate in the review, and (ii) the date of an intended public hearing as provided for in article 3.1.

All interested parties are invited to make themselves known by registering their interests via the Trade Remedies Service within 10 days of the publication of the Notice of Initiation.

Questionnaires will be sent out to those interested parties. The completed questionnaire should be submitted within 30 days from the date on which it was sent.

Interested parties can request a hearing at any time during the review process using the Trade Remedies Service at <https://www.trade-remedies.service.gov.uk/>.

For further information about hearings during a transition review, please see our Meetings, Hearings and Visits guidance, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-trade-remedies-investigations-process/meetings-hearings-and-visits>.

A timeline which identifies the key milestones of the review can be found at <https://www.trade-remedies.service.gov.uk/public/case/TF0006/submission/de8f4514-4c41-4273-9e36-0ec4d50a6234/>.
