



16 July 2018

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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1 (A) OF THE AGREEMENT
ON SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION
AND THE REASONS FOR IT**

**NOTIFICATION ON INITIATION OF A REVIEW PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 7.2 REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF
A SAFEGUARD MEASURE**

THAILAND

(Hot Rolled Steel Flat Products with Certain Amounts of Alloying Elements)

Supplement

The following communication, dated 16 July 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Thailand.

We enclose a notification on initiation of a review pursuant to Article 7.2 of the Agreement on Safeguards regarding the extension of the safeguard measure in imports of Hot Rolled Steel Flat Products with Certain Amounts of Alloying Elements.

1. Date of initiation

The notice of the initiation of the investigation was published in the Royal Gazette on 3 July B.E. 2561 (2018).

2. Product concerned

The product concerned is hot rolled steel flat products with certain amounts of alloying elements such as boron, chromium, etc., in coils and not in coils, with or without patterns in relief, of a thickness of 0.9 – 50.0 mm. and a width of 100 – 3,048 mm. Exclusion of such products from the scope of the product concerned are hot rolled steel flat products with certain amounts of alloying elements used in cold rolling process, hardening process and the automobile industry. The product concerned is currently classifiable under the Thai Customs Tariff Code at subheadings:

(HS 2017)

72253090010,	72253090021,	72253090022,	72253090023,
72253090024,	72253090032,	72253090042,	72253090090,
72254090010,	72254090024,	72254090034,	72254090090,
72269110010,	72269110021,	72269110022,	72269110023,
72269110024,	72269110032,	72269110042,	72269110090,
72269190010,	72269190021,	72269190022,	72269190023,
72269190024,	72269190032,	72269190042,	72269190090

(HS 2012)

72253090011,	72253090012,	72253090013,	72253090014,
72253090021,	72253090022,	72253090023,	72253090024,
72253090090,	72254090011,	72254090012,	72254090013,
72254090014,	72254090021,	72254090022,	72254090023,
72254090024,	72254090090,	72269110011,	72269110012,
72269110013,	72269110014,	72269110021,	72269110022,
72269110023,	72269110024,	72269110090,	72269190011,
72269190012,	72269190013,	72269190014,	72269190021,
72269190022,	72269190023,	72269190024,	72269190090

3. Reference to the WTO document containing the most recent Article 12.1(c)

The WTO document containing the most recent Article 12.1(c) is "G/SG/N/10/THA/2/Suppl.4/Corr.1-G/SG/N/11/THA/2/Suppl.6/Corr.1" dated 28 June 2018.

4. Reasons for the initiation of the review

The initiation was initiated upon an evaluation of a safeguard petition from the domestic industry and on the basis of the evidence and the information contained therein by the committee on Safeguard of Thailand. It was concluded that there is sufficient evidence to justify the initiation of the review.

(i) A petition for a review regarding the extension of a safeguard measure pursuant to Section 36 of the Safeguard Measures on Increased Imports Act B.E. 2550 (2007) was lodged by the domestic industry, consisting of Sahaviriya Steel Industries Public Company Limited, G Steel Public Company Limited, G J Steel Public Company Limited and Sahaviriya Plate Mill Public Company Limited, which accounts for 93 percent of the production of the product concerned in Thailand.

(ii) The domestic industry has provided sufficient evidence showing that the imports of product concerned decreased by 10 percent in year 2015 but increased again by 19 percent in year 2016 and when comparing the imports with total production of domestic industry, it is clear that the imports had only slightly increased by 4 percent in year 2016, the first year of the extension of the safeguard measure, and it was decrease in year 2017 to account for 43 percent of total production of domestic industry which is almost the same level as in year 2013 (42 percent), the first year of safeguard measure. The domestic industry also provide primary information of serious injury factors including share of domestic market taken by increase imports, change in level of sales, production, productivity, capacity utilization, profit and losses, and employment showing the correlation between the imports of product concerned and the serious injury factors.

(iii) There is evidence that the domestic industry is adjusting in order to improve, amongst others, focusing on manufacturing efficiency to include new machinery installation, cost reduction, product improvement, human resource improvement and marketing processes.

5. Deadlines and Procedures

(i) Presentation of evidence, documents and views

Pursuant to the Section 19 of the Safeguard Measures on Increased Imports Act B.E. 2550 (2007), importers, and any other interested parties who desire to present evidence, documents and opinions pertaining to the investigation shall submit their evidence, documents and opinions so stated in writing to the Department of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand within 15 days as of the date the Notification of the Investigation has entered into force; i.e. before 18 July B.E. 2561 (2018). Except for the exporters and any interest parties situated out of Thailand, the deadline for presentation of evidence, documents and views would be on 31 July B.E. 2561 (2018)

(ii) Hearing

An oral hearing will be held at the premises of DFT on 6 August 2018, 9.30 hrs. onwards. The interested parties who wish to attend the hearing shall provide the Acceptance form for Public Hearing before 31 July 2018 (16.30 hrs.).

6. Requests and Contact regarding the investigation

The non-confidential summary of the petition for the extension of safeguard measures (Thai version) and the Acceptance the form for Public Hearing are available in web page <http://btir.dft.go.th/> > Initiation of a Review Regarding the Extension of a Safeguard Measure. Interested parties wishing to raise questions regarding the above proceeding or request for information should contact to the following address:

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Ministry of Commerce of Thailand
563 Nonthaburi Road., Bangkasor, Nonthaburi 11000 THAILAND
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