

# Trade & Manufacturing Alert



April 2019

## Brexit on the Brink: The United Kingdom's Plan for Brexit Remains Uncertain as the European Union Agrees to Extend the Deadline for Brexit

*Iain MacVay*

On March 29, 2019, [Parliament voted down, for a third time](#), Prime Minister Theresa May's plan for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union ("EU"). As a result, it remains unclear what the next steps for the Brexit process will be. Currently, the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union on April 12, 2019, which is the new deadline for Brexit after the EU [extended](#) the existing deadline, which had been March 29, 2019. [More »](#)

## The Trump Administration Imposes Broad Sanctions Against Venezuelan Banks, Escalating Pressure on the Maduro Government

*Seth Atkisson*

On March 22, 2019, the Trump Administration [initiated another round of sanctions](#) against Venezuelan entities, sanctioning the Banco de Desarrollo Economico y Social de Venezuela ("Banco de Bandes") as well as four other financial institutions owned or controlled by Banco de Bandes. This marks the first time that the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") has used its authority to sanction entities operating in the financial sector of the Venezuelan economy, an indication that the Trump Administration is intent on escalating its pressure on President Maduro and his government. [More »](#)

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# USTR Announces Second Round Of Exclusions from the Tariffs Imposed under Section 301 Tariffs on Chinese Imports

*Chris Hyner*

As we have [previously reported](#), in July 2018, United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) announced that it would establish a process to allow interested parties to request that their Chinese imports be excluded from the tariffs imposed on them under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. In December 2018, USTR [granted](#) the first group of exclusions from the tariffs, which covered more than 950 products. [More »](#)

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## Ambassador Lighthizer Meets with Chinese Counterparts to Continue U.S.-China Trade Talks

*Antoinette Bedros*

On March 28 and 29, 2019, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin met with their Chinese counterparts to continue ongoing trade negotiations between the two countries. The discussions are intended to reduce the current tensions in the trade relationship of the two countries. In furtherance of this goal, on February 24, 2019, President Trump announced that he intended to delay a tariff increase on Chinese imports that had been set for March 1, 2019. The President has, however, indicated that he will impose the announced tariff increase should the trade talks falter. [More »](#)

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## The U.S. Court of International Trade Holds Section 232 To Be Constitutional

*Chris Hyner*

On March 25, 2019, the U.S. Court of International Trade (“CIT”) [issued its opinion in \*Am. Inst. For Int’l Steel, Inc. v. United States\*](#), a decision addressing whether Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (“TEA”) “constitutes an improper delegation of legislative authority in violation of Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution and the doctrine of separation of powers.” Under Section 232 of the TEA, Congress has delegated the authority to impose tariffs on imports from a particular country if the President

[Brazil, Australia and Guatemala Challenge India’s Sugar Cane Subsidies at the World Trade Organization](#)

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finds that they threaten the national security of the United States. [More »](#)

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## NEWS OF NOTE

- [The Department of Commerce Initiates National Security Investigation of Imports of Titanium Sponge under Section 232](#) – *Clint Long* – On March 4, 2019, the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) initiated an investigation under Section 232 of Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to determine the impact of imports of titanium sponge on U.S. national security. In explaining the decision to initiate the investigation, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross stated that titanium sponge is “the primary form of titanium metal from which almost all other titanium products are made,” and the product “has uses in a wide range of defense applications, from helicopter blades and tank armor to fighter jet airframes and engines.” [More »](#)
- [Brazil, Australia and Guatemala Challenge India’s Sugar Cane Subsidies at the World Trade Organization](#) – *Saud Aldawsari* – On February 27, March 1, and March 15, 2019, Brazil, Australia, and Guatemala [initiated](#) challenges to India’s sugar cane subsidy program at the World Trade Organization (“WTO”). The three countries allege that India provides subsidies to Indian sugarcane and sugar producers in violation of the WTO’s Subsidies Code. [More »](#)

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