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Trade & Manufacturing Alert

June 2017 | [Print Issue](#)

With U.S. Trade Representative Confirmation, NAFTA Renegotiations Are Underway

Liz Owerbach

On May 11, 2017, the Senate confirmed Robert Lighthizer as United States Trade Representative (USTR) in an 82-14 vote. Despite bipartisan support as a nominee, Mr. Lighthizer's confirmation was delayed for months in order to procure a Congressional waiver necessitated by the Trade Act of 1974. [More »](#)

Update On Steel And Aluminum Section 232 National Security Investigations

Lingna Yan

As reported previously, in late April, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross initiated two investigations to determine the effects of imported steel and aluminum on national security pursuant to section 232(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. The investigations follow the procedures and requirements of the part 705 of the National Security Industrial Base Regulations. The public may participate in the ongoing investigations by submitting written comments or making oral presentations at public hearings. Commerce invited any party interested in the steel investigation to submit written comments including data, analyses, and any relevant information to Commerce's Office of Technology Evaluation by May 31, 2017. In the aluminum investigation (which is proceeding on a separate track), any written comments must be filed by June 23, 2017. [More »](#)

Commerce And USTR Hold Public Hearing On U.S. Trade Deficit

Kathleen L. Benner

On May 18, 2017, Commerce and USTR held a public hearing on U.S. Trade Deficits. The hearing was held in response to Executive Order

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- Comments Submitted To Commerce Regarding China's Nonmarket Economy

13786, issued by President Trump, which instructed the agencies to prepare and submit an Omnibus Report on Significant Trade Deficits and provide the opportunity for public meetings if desired. [More »](#)

ITC To Issue Preliminary Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Report On June 9

Patrick J. Togni

Next Friday (June 9), the ITC will deliver its preliminary report to the House Ways & Means and the Senate Finance Committees regarding Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) petitions filed with the agency pursuant to the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 (the Act). The preliminary report also will be made available to the public on the ITC's MTB web portal. [More »](#)

Border Adjustment Tax Discussed During House Ways & Means Hearing On Tax Reform

Saud Aldawsari

On May 18, 2017, the House Ways and Means Committee, which writes the nation's tax laws, hosted its first hearing of the year on tax reform. The Committee gathered a group of business leaders to testify on the best course of action to revamp the tax code and grow the economy. Of particular importance is the hearing on May 23 entitled "Increasing U.S. Competitiveness and Preventing American Jobs from Moving Overseas." This hearing focused on the border-adjustment tax (BAT), which formed a key part of Republican comprehensive tax reform efforts announced in June 2016. According to the plan, the BAT proposal would tax imports and exempt exports, providing a source of revenue so lawmakers could cut taxes in other segments of the economy. [More »](#)

News of Note

- **President Trump Issues Two Additional Trade-Related Executive Orders** – *Marina Leonart Calvo and Clint Long* – On April 29, 2017, President Donald Trump signed two executive orders (EOs) on issues related to international trade: (1) a Presidential Executive Order Addressing Trade Agreement Violations and Abuses (EO 13796); and (2) a Presidential Executive Order on Establishment of Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy (EO 13797). [More »](#)
- **Comments Submitted To Commerce Regarding China's Nonmarket Economy Status** – *Richard Lutz and Quinn Bailey* – On May 10, 2017, a wide range of parties submitted comments to

Status

- Global Safeguard Petition Filed On Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells And Modules

[China Subsidy Exchange Blog](#)

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Commerce regarding whether China should continue to be treated as a non-market (NME) economy under the antidumping and countervailing duty laws. [More »](#)

- **Global Safeguard Petition Filed On Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells And Modules** – [Alexandra Carr and Liz Owerbach](#) – On April 26, 2017, a U.S.-based solar manufacturer, Suniva, Inc., filed a petition with the ITC for global safeguards under Section 201-202 of the Trade Act of 1974. Suniva’s petition attributes injury faced by U.S. solar manufacturers to an increase of foreign imports. [More »](#)

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