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# Trade & Manufacturing Alert

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## President Obama Signs American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016

*J. Michael Taylor, Charles Julien, Mark Wasden, Bonnie B. Byers, and Patrick J. Togni*

On May 20, President Obama signed the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 into law (the Act). The Act restores the ability of the U.S. Congress to consider so-called Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) legislation. Under this mechanism, duties may be eliminated or reduced for a period of up to three years on imported articles not otherwise available in the United States. The prior version of the MTB program expired on December 31, 2012. Renewal provides the U.S. manufacturing sector with the potential for relief from higher costs imposed by import duties on articles that cannot be sourced domestically. [More »](#)

## Treasury Report Identifies Countries Whose Currency Practices Warrant Close Monitoring and Assessment

*Lauren M. Donoghue*

On April 29, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) Office of International Affairs issued a report to Congress entitled “Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States.” The semiannual report, required under the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 and the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, reviews the currency practices of America’s major trading partners. [More »](#)

## House and Senate LNG Provisions Go to Conference

*Michael A. Andrews, James F. Bowe, and Lauren M. Donoghue*

On April 20, the Senate passed a broad-based energy bill, the Energy Policy Modernization Act (S. 2012), and set the stage for a conference between House and Senate leaders to compromise on the policy differences between their respective bills. It could result in the passage of the first comprehensive energy bill in nine years, but it will not be

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## U.S. Issues Burma General Licenses

*Kathleen L. Benner*

In May, the United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Burmese Sanction Regulations, and the U.S. Department of State (State) proposed revisions to the Burma Responsible Investment Reporting Requirements, both of which would open up opportunities for trade, investment, and residence in Burma (also known as Myanmar) by U.S. persons. [More »](#)

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## News of Note

- **TPP Remains a Presidential Priority** – *Elizabeth Owerbach* – As his presidency draws to a close, President Obama continues to pursue passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). [More »](#)
  - **U.S.–Mexico Tuna Dispute Enters New Compliance Stage at the WTO** – *Jordan Shepherd* – The World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute between the United States and Mexico over the former's dolphin-safe labeling regulations that impact Mexican tuna producers has taken a few procedural turns at the compliance stage. [More »](#)
  - **U.S. Challenges Chinese Duties on Chicken at the WTO** – *Marcus Sohlberg* – On May 10, the United States filed a request for trade consultations with China over China's alleged failure to comply with rulings in 2013 in the dispute over antidumping and countervailing duties on broiler products from the United States (DS427). [More »](#)
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