

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION

NOTICE 4016 OF 2026

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION FOR REMEDIAL ACTION IN THE FORM OF A SAFEGUARD MEASURE AGAINST THE INCREASED IMPORTS OF FLAT-ROLLED PRODUCTS OF IRON, NON-ALLOY STEEL OR OTHER ALLOY STEEL (NOT INCLUDING STAINLESS STEEL), WHETHER IN COILS OR NOT IN COILS, (INCLUDING PRODUCTS CUT-TO-LENGTH AND 'NARROW STRIP'), NOT FURTHER WORKED THAN COLD-ROLLED (COLD-REDUCED), NOT CLAD, PLATED OR COATED (HEREWITH REFERRED TO AS COLD-ROLLED PRODUCTS).

The International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa ("ITAC" or the "Commission") accepted an application against the increased imports of flat-rolled products of iron, non-alloy steel or other alloy steel (not including stainless steel), whether in coils or not in coils, (including products cut-to-length and 'narrow strip'), not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated.

Based on the information submitted, the Commission decided that the Southern African Customs Union ("SACU") industry submitted *prima facie* information to indicate that:

- The events cited can be regarded as unforeseen developments that led to the surge or increase in volumes of imports;
- The SACU industry is suffering serious injury; and
- There is a causal link between the serious injury suffered by the SACU industry and the surge in volumes of imports.

THE APPLICANT

The application was lodged by ArcelorMittal South Africa Ltd ("AMSA" or the "Applicant"). AMSA is the only producer of the subject product in the SACU region, and accordingly, constitutes 100% of the domestic production of the like product in SACU. The serious injury information submitted by AMSA constitutes a major proportion of the total SACU production.

THE PRODUCT UNDER INVESTIGATION

The product imported into the SACU market is flat-rolled products of iron, non-alloy steel or other alloy steel (not including stainless steel), whether in coils or not in coils, (including products cut-to-length and ‘narrow strip’), not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated (herewith referred to as cold-rolled products), classifiable under tariff sub-headings 7209.15, 7209.16, 7209.17, 7209.18, 7209.25, 7209.26, 7209.27, 7209.29, 7211.23, 7211.29, 7211.90 and 7225.50.

The Commission found that the imported product is a “like product” and/or “directly competitive product” to the SACU product.

UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS

The Applicant submitted that a confluence of events forms the basis of the unforeseen developments that support the application. In summary, the Applicant stated that during the Uruguay Round of negotiations, South Africa did not foresee the following events:

- (i) There is a persistent global oversupply and weak demand in cold-rolled steel. The persistent global oversupply of cold rolled steel, exacerbated by continuing investments in cold-rolling capacity, and weakening demand in major world markets has resulted in significant excess production and export capacity that is being diverted to more open markets, such as SACU.
- (ii) Major global economies are imposing trade remedies and tariff barriers, restricting traditional cold-rolled steel exports.
- (iii) As a direct consequence, trade flows are being diverted towards more open markets with lower tariff protection, including SACU.

SURGE OF IMPORTS

The Applicant submitted *prima facie* evidence of a significant increase in imports of the subject product over the period of investigation. The increase in volumes of imports, that is sudden enough, recent enough, significant enough and sharp enough occurred between 2023 and 2024. The increase in volumes of imports continued in 2025.

SERIOUS INJURY

The period of investigation for data evaluation for the purposes of determining the allegation of serious injury is 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2025.

The Applicant alleged and submitted *prima facie* information that it is experiencing serious injury in the form of a decline in sales volumes market share and profitability. The Applicant submitted additional information to substantiate its serious injury allegation.

CAUSAL LINK

The Commission found that there was *prima facie* evidence that a causal link exists between the serious injury suffered by the SACU industry and the increase in volumes of imports arising from those unforeseen developments.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This investigation will be conducted in accordance with the International Trade Administration Act, 2002 (ITA Act) and the Amended Safeguard Regulations (Amended SGR) read with the World Trade Organization Agreement on Safeguards (the Safeguard Agreement).

Please note that if any information is considered to be confidential, a non-confidential version of the information must be submitted for the public file, simultaneously with the confidential version. In submitting a non-confidential version, the following rules are strictly applicable and parties must indicate:

- where confidential information has been omitted and the nature of such information;
- reasons for such confidentiality;
- a summary of the confidential information which permits a reasonable understanding of the substance of the confidential information; and
- in exceptional cases, where information is not susceptible to summary, reasons must be submitted to this effect.

This rule applies to all parties and to all correspondence and submissions to the Commission, which unless indicated to be confidential and filed together with a nonconfidential version, will be placed on the public file and be made available to other interested parties.

If a party considers that any document of another party, on which that party is submitting representations, does not comply with the above rules and that such deficiency affects that party's ability to make meaningful representations, the details of the deficiency and the reasons why that party's rights are so affected must be submitted to the Commission in writing forthwith (and at the latest 14 days prior to the date on which that party's submission is due). Failure to do so timeously will seriously hamper the proper administration of the investigation, and such party will not be able to subsequently claim an inability to make meaningful representations on the basis of the failure of such other party to meet the requirements.

Subsection 33(1) of the ITA Act provides that any person claiming confidentiality of information should identify whether such information is confidential by nature or is otherwise confidential and any such claims must be supported by a written statement, in each case, setting out how the information satisfies the requirements of the claim to confidentiality. In the alternative, a sworn statement should be made, setting out reasons why it is impossible to comply with these requirements.

PROCEDURES AND TIME LIMITS

All information submitted, including non-confidential copies thereof, should be received by the Senior Manager: Trade Remedies II by no later than 20 days from the date hereof. Late submissions will not be accepted. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the initiation of the investigation or any information regarding this matter to the following address:

Physical address

The Senior Manager: Trade Remedies II
International Trade Administration Commission

Block E – The DTI Campus

77 Meintjies Street

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SOUTH AFRICA

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The Senior Manager

Trade Remedies II

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SOUTH AFRICA

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the investigating officer Mr. Edwin Mkwanazi at email address: emkwanazi@itac.org.za or Mr. Neo Motshoane at email address: nmotshoane@itac.org.za