



# The Bottom Line

OCTOBER 2020 | VOL. 59

## CHANGES COMING TO THE STEEL IMPORT MONITORING AND ANALYSIS SYSTEM

### Summary

Beginning October 14, importers are going to be called upon to identify the country where the steel used in the manufacture of imported steel product was melted and poured.

### Background

The Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System, under the Department of Commerce, collects and publishes data of steel mill product imports. SIMA, through the import monitor, provides an early indication on steel imports by publishing near real-time aggregate data on steel mill imports into the United States. The published reports pull data from two sources—one is the data entered into the licensing system; the other is Census data.

Twice a month, Census releases import statistics on steel—first the preliminary statistics, followed by the official month's statistics approximately ten days later. All steel mill imports into the United States require an import license issued by the SIMA office for entry summary. Importers and Customs brokers use the SIMA website to obtain their steel licenses prior to completing their Customs entry documentation. The steel import license is used for data collection purposes only.

### Current Status

For the first time in ten years, the Import Licensing System is being upgraded. While the new interface promises to be more user-friendly, the changes also include a requirement for NEW information to be provided as part of the license

application process. This requirement stems in part from the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) negotiations, during which it was agreed among the nations that the Section 232 duties on steel and aluminum would be removed assuming the countries establish an agreed-upon process for monitoring steel trade between them, and, further, in monitoring for surges, to treat products made with steel that is melted and poured in North America separately from products that are not.

Country of melt and pour refers to the original location where the raw steel is: (1) first produced in a steel-making furnace in a liquid state, and then (2) poured into its first solid shape. The first solid state can take the form of either a semi-finished product (slab, billets or ingots) or a finished steel mill product. The location of melt and pour is customarily identified on mill test certificates.

### Impact

All licenses requested on or after October 13, 2020, must meet the requirements of this rule and utilize the online license application platform on the new SIMA system website. Commerce expects that the mill test certification would be included with the standard sales documentation for steel mill imports, and therefore would be readily available to the importer. Importers can help ensure an efficient Customs clearance process by providing this information to the broker.

### RESOURCES:

[Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System](#) (Federal Register)  
[U.S. Industry Monitoring and Analysis System](#) (ITA)