



The Bottom Line

JUNE 2021 | VOL. 91

DELAYED ALUMINUM IMPORT MONITORING AND ANALYSIS SYSTEM TO BEGIN

Summary

Beginning June 28, brokers and importers are going to be called upon to apply for and obtain an import license for each entry of certain aluminum products into the United States through the AIM system website.

Background

The Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System, under the Department of Commerce, collects and publishes data of steel mill product imports and has been operational since 2005. 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. To the extent practicable, the AIM System will operate in a similar manner as the SIMA system. Import licenses, issued through the online licensing system, are required by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP or Customs) for filing entry summary documentation, or its electronic equivalent, for imports of certain steel mill products into the United States. Beginning June 28th, a similar process will be required for imports of certain aluminum products.

Current Status

On May 17, 2019, the United States announced joint understandings with Canada and Mexico concerning trade in aluminum. Among other things, the understandings call for the monitoring of aluminum trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. During USMCA negotiations 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 aluminum trade between them and monitor for surges. Most of the information needed for the import license will be

readily available to the broker in the entry documents. However, Commerce will require the applicant to provide information regarding the smelting and casting of the aluminum in three separate fields:

1. The country where the largest volume of primary aluminum used in the manufacture of the imported aluminum product was smelted,
2. The country where the second largest volume of primary aluminum used in the manufacture of the imported aluminum product was smelted, and
3. The country where the aluminum used in the imported aluminum product was most recently cast.

Impact

There is no cost associated with registering for the new AIM website and import licenses do not carry a registration fee. All customs entries for applicable products on or after June 28, must meet the requirements of this rule and utilize the online license application platform on the new AIM system website. Commerce expects that the mill test certification would be included with the standard sales documentation for aluminum mill imports and therefore would be readily available to the importer. Importers need to be aware of the requirements and request it from suppliers to ensure an efficient Customs clearance process by providing this information to the broker. Failure to have this information available could result in Customs delays and storage.

RESOURCES

[Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System](#) (Federal Register)

[U.S. Industry Monitoring and Analysis System](#) (International Trade Administration)

[Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis System](#) (Federal Register)