

UK Steel Safeguard Measures

Steel Products to Exclude from Definitive Measures

Dear Sir,

On 30 September 2020 the UK government published a Notice of Determination setting out the transition from EU steel safeguard measures to UK steel safeguard measures. The Notice of Determination sets out which of the product categories and TARIC groups covered by the EU safeguard measures the new UK safeguard measures will cover, specifically those products which have domestic production in the UK.

We have noted that some of the TARIC groups within product categories 5 (Organic Coated Sheets), 19 (Railway Material) and 28 (Non-Alloy Wire) have been included in the UK measures but do not have domestic production in the UK. The inclusion of these products in the measures could have serious detrimental effects on the supply chains of UK companies who use these products, not to mention the unfair competition caused by the finished products these companies produce being able to enter the UK without any restrictions. We therefore ask that these products be omitted from the UK measures, as per the WTO Agreement on Safeguards.

The products which have been included in the UK safeguard measures but do not have domestic production fall under the following TARICs:

Category 5 – Organic Coated Sheets

7210 70 – Painted, varnished or coated with plastics

- 7210 70 80 11 – Specifically: 0.32mm grade

No UK steel producer has the capacity to produce painted steel gauges < 0.345mm thick. Excluding the 0.32mm grade sub product preserves the supply chain of the material which is not produced in the UK and ensures the quota volumes remain for those products that are produced in the UK, as the safeguard measures intend.

Category 19 – Railway Material

7302 10 – Rails

- 7302 10 28 'of a weight per metre of less than 36kg'
- 7302 10 40 'grooved rails'
- 7302 10 50 'others' – Specifically: Crane Rails below 43kg/m (sections A45 + A55)

There is no UK production of these products.

Category 28 – Non Alloy Wire

7217 20 – Plated or coated with Zinc

- 7217 20 20
- 7217 20 30

- 7217 20 50
- 7217 20 90

We understand that one UK producer (Betafence) used to produce Zinc Coated Wires in the UK but announced in November 2016 that they intended to close their wire drawing and galvanising lines. The producer had two galvanising lines which ceased production on 27 January 2017 (<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/120-sheffield-jobs-go-global-fencing-company-452099>).

7217 30 – Plated or coated with other base metals

- 7217 30 41
- 7217 30 49
- 7217 30 50
- 7217 30 90

There is no UK production of these products.

7217 90 – Other

- 7217 90 20
- 7217 90 50
- 7217 90 90

There is no UK production of these products.

If we can provide any further information that would help in this case, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Kind regards,

Commercial Manager UK

ArcelorMittal Rails