

We have a problem, potentially big problem with importing of Engineering steel and the safeguarding tariffs of 25% for exceeding the quota. I was trying to submit this on your portal but it was a little difficult as all the deadlines were in the past.

The key issue for us is that we have always bought a large percentage of our steel from Liberty Speciality Steels and we will hopefully continue to do so. The particular quota we triggered was Tariff 27 but for me Tariff 27 assumes that UK mills/Liberty can roll and cast all grades of steel in all sizes, which is most definitely untrue. For example the particular steel mentioned below was 107mm dia and Liberty's maximum size is only 90mm Dia. The grade was a specification B46-1 (21NiCrMo5H type) that just isn't cast in the UK. We have other similar issues with other grades and sizes, which are just not within the range of Liberty Speciality Steels, we wish they were.

The situation with Liberty Speciality Steels is deteriorating. What stock we thought they had for us is not being manufactured in the time lines they had originally promised. Our customer's production lines must not stop, so our hands are now being forced to import more steel and run the risk of more tariffs. I would assume most every other Liberty customer will be experiencing similar difficulties.

So we have two issues here, firstly that safeguarding tariffs are too broad and are trying to protect steel rolling capabilities that are just not available in the UK.

Secondly the difficult situation with Liberty is compounding the issue greatly meaning the quota levels, even if they were relevant, will be far too low and will cripple manufacturers like ourselves.