

October 11, 2019

Miscellaneous Tariff Bill and Duty Suspensions or Reductions

Dear Valued Customer,

On May 20, 2016, U.S. Congress passed the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 [Public Law 114-159] “to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.”

Certain articles used in manufacturing have insufficient domestic availability or no domestic availability and paying duties on them negatively affects U.S. manufacturers and consumers. Suspension or reduction of duties on imports of the articles allows U.S. manufacturers to remain competitive in the global market. The law is known as the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB), and a process for submitting petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions was established.

On October 11, 2019, the International Trade Commission (ITC) published a notice in the Federal Register requesting petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions. Importers who can demonstrate that they are likely beneficiaries of a duty suspension or reduction can submit a petition. **The deadline for submitting petitions will be December 10, 2019**

Information regarding submission of petitions and additional reference material can be found on ITC’s website: https://www.usitc.gov/trade_tariffs/mtb_program_information.

Petition submission information includes, but is not limited to:

- Is the commodity covered by a current Heading 9902 duty suspension or reduction,
- The commodity’s Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the U.S. (HTSUS) number to 8 digits, a description of the article, the duty rate of the 8-digit HTSUS,
- If the request is for a temporary duty suspension or reduction,
- A description of the commodity for Heading 9902 designation, notation if the product is a chemical, if the product is covered by multiple HTSUS numbers,
- Is there a current private or public ruling on the commodity’s classification issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP),
- Have you previously imported the product,
- From what country or countries is the commodity imported from,
- Estimate of U.S. import data on the product for the previous calendar year, the current calendar year, and for each of the next five years; whether the information provided is for your import data only, an estimate of your firm’s current share of the market, are you aware of any other U.S. importers of the product, are you aware of any other beneficiaries other than your firm and other U.S. importers, and
- Information regarding U.S. production of the commodity, like or directly competitive product.

Our information is compiled from a number of sources that to the best of our knowledge are accurate and correct. It is always the intent of our company to present accurate information. C.H. Robinson accepts no liability or responsibility for the information published herein.



The new MTB process, as set out in the law, runs from October 2019 through the end of 2020. The dates and time frames below have been calculated from the start date announced by the U.S. ITC and the text of the legislation.

- October 11 - December 10, 2019: USITC MTB portal open for petition submission.
- December 10, 2019 - January 11, 2020: USITC compiles petitions.
- No later than January 11, 2020: USITC issues Federal Register notice soliciting comments on product petitions.
- January 11, 2020 - Late February, 2020 (45 days): USITC accepts public comments through online portal.
- January 11, 2020 - mid-April, 2020 (90 days): Commerce conducts its review of petitions, at the end of which it submits its report to the congressional committees and the USITC.
- January 11 - Mid-June, 2020 (150 days): USITC conducts its review of petitions, at end of which it submits its Preliminary Report to the congressional committees, taking into consideration the Commerce Report.
- Mid-June - mid-August, 2020 (60 days): USITC conducts re-review of individual petitions, based on information submitted by the congressional committees, at the end of which it submits its Final Report to the congressional committees.

Upon reviewal by congressional committees, a MTB is then proposed and must be enacted, identifying what articles have been allowed and the effective date of the duty suspension or reduction.

Total allowable timing, not including bill proposal and enactment, is estimated at 270 days (approximately August 11, 2020). The current MTB is due to expire December 31, 2020. Ideally, timing for petitions and reports is sufficient, but getting the MTB approved and passed into law by Congress can take longer than expected.

Petitions cannot be amended. If corrections or other information is to be considered, withdraw the submitted petition and file a new one before the December deadline. Any petitions may be withdrawn no later than 30 days after the Commission transmits its preliminary report to Congress.

Additional information on the MTB, timing, and other details can be found on the International Trade Administration's website [here](#). Information can also be found in the Federal Register notice [here](#).

A recorded training session of filing a petition can be found [here](#).

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your C.H. Robinson representative.

Sincerely,
C.H. Robinson Customs Compliance Team

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