

# Washington Tariff & Trade Letter

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## ITC Trump Tariff Review

The International Trade Commission released its comprehensive review of the economic impact of the 2018 tariff action protecting American Steel and Aluminum and those penalizing importers of Chinese goods.

The tariffs were based on national security investigations pursuant to section 232 on steel and aluminum, and a section 301 investigation concerning China's "acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation."

**The Commission estimates that tariffs under sections 232 and 301 resulted in a nearly one-to-one increase in prices of U.S. imports following the tariffs.** This implies that a 10 percent ad valorem tariff raised the price of U.S. imports from China by about 10 percent.

This nearly complete pass-through (meaning that prices received by exporters were largely unaffected and prices paid by U.S. importers increased by the same amount as the tariffs) is unusual but has been similarly found by other recent studies, which conclude that U.S. importers have borne almost the full burden of section 301 tariffs.

## Steel & Aluminum

Imports of steel decreased in the years following the imposition of the tariffs, declining 17.2 percent from 2017 to 2021. The steel industry's capacity utilization increased from 2017 to 2021, with capacity utilization at a 14-year high in 2021.

**The prices of hot-rolled steel coil in the U.S. at the end of 2021 were more than quadruple those at the beginning of 2016.** Although prices have increased globally since 2018, the increase has been much higher in the United States than elsewhere. Elsewhere the report cites

Imports of aluminum have generally been lower since the imposition of the tariffs, declining by 19 percent from 2017 to 2021. **Aluminum prices show an overall increase of 45 percent between December 2017 and December 2021, and reaching their highest levels in 13 years in October 2021.**

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The report notes that factors other than the tariffs have affected trade, production, and prices in the U.S. steel and aluminum industries. These factors include the COVID- 19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) orders, a surge in energy prices, global responses to the tariffs, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine

**The tariffs are estimated to have increased the prices of imported steel and aluminum products subject to the duties by about 22.7 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively.**

**The report notes that the impetus for the metals tariffs is National Security, not consumer welfare.** The US was world's largest aluminum producer at the turn of the century, with 23 smelters in operation. By 2016, the U.S. accounted for just 1.5 percent of global production. In the same time frame, production of primary aluminum in China grew from less than 15 percent of global production in 2000 to about 55 percent in 2016.

### 301 China Tariffs

Under Section 301, the Trade Representative initially imposed additional ad valorem duties of 25 percent on approximately \$34 billion of imports classifiable under 818 HTS subheadings (tranche 1)

Subsequent rounds of actions led to the imposition of additional ad valorem duties of varying rates on imports under approximately 10,121 tariff subheadings.

The model estimates that section 301 tariffs resulted in a 13 percent drop in the value of U.S. imports from China on average in sectors affected by the tariffs.

### Commissioner Kearns' Addendum

**Commissioner Jason E. Kearns** included an appendix noting the report fails to "describe or estimate the impact of China's unfair trade practices that led to the imposition of those tariffs, nor does it describe the serious and persistent efforts over many years to persuade China to act more responsibly as a trading partner, nor how those efforts yielded paltry results."

"In my view," continued Mr. Kearns, "that history must be well understood as we try to assemble a complete picture of the costs and benefits of the section 232 and 301 tariffs—actions authorized by Congress, taken by one Administration and continued by another. It demonstrates that the United States could not have been more patient as it tried to persuade China to change course."

### Russian Oil Price Cap a Success – Treasury

The oil price cap sanctions on Russia are proving an unqualified success, according to a senior Treasury official. Speaking at the American Enterprise Institute, **Ben Harris, assistant secretary for economic policy and chief economist at the Treasury Department** discussed the price regime's effectiveness to date.

"When we announced this in the Fall we were called lots of nice things on Twitter by experts who say that you don't understand how commodity markets work you can't just cap the price of a commodity. There'll be work arounds... We explained no we actually do understand how commodity markets work. This isn't a global price

cap on a commodity, this is a conditional tweak to the sixth sanctions package, and we actually think that we have enough influence over western services that this will matter.

**“We had two goals: one was to keep energy market stable and the second was to reduce Russian revenue.** So here we are mid March looking back, and you say well are you successful? The first thing we'll say is look, I want to come with a lot of humility, this has only been in place for really a few weeks. February 5th is when you put in the price caps on refined product. We're not looking for a parade; things can change over time energy markets are fickle.

That all being said we can look back at least to December 5th we put the price cap on crude and say look we had the two goals. **Prices have been remarkably stable** over the past several months and they've been trading within a band of about 7 or \$8 per barrel.. We've also seen Russian volumes stay relatively stable they're about where they were relative to pre war.

The second thing you could say is OK fine barrels are flowing that's fine but you **are you driving down Russian revenue and the answer is decidedly yes.** Pre-invasion, these were basically the same product: there was about a dollar difference between the price of Brent and the price of Ural coming out of Russia. Now you're seeing a spread of about \$30. What we have done is we have bifurcated the market. We've taken a commodity we've split in half. Now people care where the oil is coming from whereas before they didn't. The bifurcation in the market has allowed us to maintain this really broad spread, which ultimately drives down revenues so I think we have been successful initially.

We get the question saying look isn't this just aren't you just transferring the rents from the windfall from Russia to China or India and the answer is yes. Anyone buying cheap Russian oil is benefiting from the windfall. We are fine with it as long as it's not Russia.

So I think I think in the short term we can we can say that this was a reasonably successful policy and we have good evidence to support that assessment. Move forward it's 2023, let's say it's 2028, 2030. What does success look like along that time horizon? **I think the most tangible measure of success is that we end the war**, and for a ton of a ton of reasons many of which are beyond the scope of my purview of the government, but this war has got to stop. I think that the price cap will not be successful until we've seen the end to the war.

## WTO / China Squawks at Carbon Tax

China presented a proposal for "dedicated multilateral discussions on the trade aspects and implications of certain environmental measures" at Wednesday's meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). **The proposal is in response to the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which puts Chinese steelmakers at a competitive disadvantage.**

China read out portions of its submission, cautioning against "green trade barriers," asking that members implementing environmental measures with "wide ramifications" submit a written report for the Committee on Trade and Environment to discuss. "There is the need for more engagement in deep, detailed and constructive discussions, debates and deliberations, with a view to enhancing the understanding of the measures themselves and the specific concerns of members," read the Chinese proposal.

The EU said it has already been presenting CBAM in detail at the WTO over the past two years and responding to members' questions, noting that it will hold an information session on the CBAM legal text which it said will be released in May. The EU also cautioned members from turning the Committee in to an informal dispute settlement body.

Members inveighed against the EU's unilateral measures during Tuesday's discussion on the key features of the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on Packaging and Packaging waste. This came after a heated session Tuesday where the EU came under fire from all sides for the CBAM and its forestry initiatives.

Several South American countries – Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia and Nicaragua – as well as India, Kenya, China and Russia – tore into the EU's, said people who asked not to be quoted. The EU's trans-Atlantic partner – the United States – apparently remained mum on the EU's proposal at the meeting, while the United Kingdom seemed to have lent half-hearted support to the CBAM.

Significantly, even some industrialized countries like Japan and Korea, among others, cautiously raised concerns about some aspects of the EU's CBAM at the meeting.

## WTO / US Joins Plastics Dialogue

The United States has joined the World Trade Organization's *Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade*, where members are looking at next year's 13th Ministerial Conference as an opportunity for the WTO to deliver outcomes to reduce plastics pollution and address environmental concerns, according to participants in the dialogue.

The three work streams cover cross-cutting issues such as international cooperation, capacity building and transparency, issues related to reduction of plastics pollution and a full life-cycle approach to eliminating such pollution, issues regarding promotion of environmentally sustainable trade in plastic alternatives and substitutes, as well as technologies required to address plastics pollution.

### Political Statement

Several participants suggested that key components of the MC13 outcomes should include a political statement highlighting commonly identified priorities, as well as a call for action, voluntary pledges of domestic actions and collective efforts in plastics reduction, according to the release.

They also recommended the inclusion of specific trade actions such as the identification of harmful plastic goods targeted by trade measures, a compendium of best practices, and a set of Harmonized System codes for substitutes of harmful plastic goods to recommend to the World Customs Organization.

During the meeting, some participants expressed the need for more in-depth discussions on plastics substitutes, with a focus on phasing out fossil-fuel products, and providing technical assistance to developing members to achieve this. Others highlighted the synergies between the Dialogue and other international initiatives, stressing the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts or negatively impacting other global negotiation processes.

The next meeting of the Dialogue is scheduled for April 27. It will be a joint workshop with the UN Environment Program with the focus on reducing the use of harmful plastic products.

## CBP / Forced Labor Expo Gets Schooled

In a presentation the CBPs Forced Labor Expo in Wednesday, **Dr. Laura Murphy of Sheffield Hallam University** (UK) made an impassioned plea for industry to know their supply chain.

“What we're talking about here today is extraordinarily urgent. It is probably, I hope, the worst human rights crisis we'll see in our lifetimes. Our team have traced the ways in which the Chinese government the PRC government has invested enormous resources in moving manufacturing to the Uyghur region intentionally, to transform that region. **Transforming that region they claim is a development project, but it is in fact a major integral part of a genocide.**

We look at how that forced labor is affecting our international supply chains and try to produce the knowledge base that allows us to take action. We've looked at solar we've looked at cotton apparel we've done research on PVC and building materials, and we looked at the automotive industry.

**The thing that I think might be being missed here is that when folks talk about labor transfers that is a euphemism.** It's a neat clean phrasing for a system of forced labor. The way we know that is because, while labor transfers and operate across the entirety of China, in the Uyghur region they operate on a backdrop of extraordinary coercion that is that is mechanized that is operationalized through the threat of internment.

**The thing about the situation in the Uyghur region is those labor transfers - somebody could say yes to them, but no one can say no.** To resist a government program is to be aligned with terrorism; this is directly written into government directives. Anyone who says no knows that they are risking going to an internment camp, and they know what happens there because there is no one in that region who has not gone, or been, or had a family member go to a camp.

**There are few things that experts in the world agree on but experts on forced labor agree on: this system is a massive and unprecedented system of state sponsored forced labor, and so it is all of our duty to address. People told us the Xinjiang region is a black box, but the truth is if we can see it you can see it.** It is all online. We are not hackers; we don't know anything about the dark web. We just Google it y'all. We Google it in Chinese. You could use Google Translate.

So if we can see it you can see it. You can be doing this work. You can use these tools, but you could also just Google your suppliers name in Chinese. I cannot tell you how many companies tell me they do not know their supplier's Chinese name. How do you know anything about your supplier if you don't even know what their name is, right?

We trace supply chains out to the rest of the world and what we're finding is that **companies and whole industries have remained ignorant of their raw materials.** We go as far as we can down into the raw materials. We look at companies that are egregiously engaged in the labor transfer programs. We document what they've done, and we then say OK who are they selling to?

China has decided that they're going to move the dirty processing of the actual raw materials to the Uyghur region - where they don't care what happens to the environment, where processes that are outlawed all over

the world, including in other parts of China are still being practiced in the Uyghur region with complete impunity.

What we found was that everyone needs to be looking if you have any raw materials that are that could possibly be processed in China they're moving to that region and you need to be looking at your supply chains to figure that out. We have the opportunity to do the right thing and say we're not going to just not buy those goods.

I regularly hear from businesses about the risk. We need to, you know, limit our risk, our exposure. We need to limit our financial risk, our legal risk. As a human rights researcher, I think you're talking about the wrong risk.

There are 12 million people in the Uyghur region. 12 million people who every single day are terrified that they will have a sack put over their heads, that they will disappear in the night. People who go to sleep wearing layers of clothes so that when they end up in an internment camp they have underwear. Three million Uyghur workers work for you. You may not pay them directly; no one pays them directly. You are profiting from them, and you are talking about your business risk, your legal risk.

**I am talking about the risk of participating in a genocide, of financing a genocide, because that's what we're doing,** and consumers can only do so much to prevent that. I can only do so much wearing of my used clothes to be able to prevent that.

**So I don't want to hear talking about risk to your business, I like talking about risk to Uyghur people, and until you are doing every single thing you can do to make sure that you change what's happening for the Uyghur people, or at least make sure that you're not profiting from it , you're doing every single thing you can do, you should not sleep at night. I mean it.**

For all of that said, I think there's some reasons for us to be optimistic. I think that we have together done some pretty incredible things to address this crisis. It's remarkable as someone who lived in the Uyghur region, who's watched this situation deteriorate over 20 years, to see how people have come together and how quickly we've been able to make change when people finally recognized how urgent this situation is.

## WTO / US Says No TRIPS 'til October

*Geneva via WTD* – The United States is apparently holding hostage a decision to extend the World Trade Organization's 12th ministerial conference decision on paragraph eight of the TRIPS Agreement to COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics on grounds that **Washington cannot reach a decision until the International Trade Commission completes its investigation**, our correspondent has learned. At a *Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Council* meeting yesterday, the United States stated that the ITC report will not be completed until October 18, further delaying a decision, said people familiar with the discussions.

Paragraph eight of the MC12 decision on the TRIPS Agreement adopted on June 17, 2022 unambiguously stated that **"no later than six months from the date of this Decision will decide on its extension to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics."** On December 16, the General Council recommended that the deadline should be further extended. Yet, three months after that GC decision, there is no light in the tunnel, said participants, after attending the WTO's TRIPS Council meeting yesterday.

Many developing countries, including the least-developed countries, expressed frustration with further delay in making the decision whether to extend the TRIPS Agreement to COVID-19 tests and medicines. They sought an early decision in order to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to wreak havoc in many countries.

## Supporters Frustrated

South Africa, which spoke for the co-sponsors of the original TRIPS waiver and additional supporters, drew attention to its proposal (IP/C/W/694) arguing that a more comprehensive waiver would support the efforts to ensure timely, equitable and universal access to safe, affordable, and effective therapeutics and diagnostics as well as ramping up production and expanding supply options.

Given the arduous negotiations on the TRIPS waiver that were held before the MC12 TRIPS Agreement decision, it appears somewhat clear that major pharmaceutical-producing countries are again back to their game of stonewalling, said a TRIPS negotiator after the meeting.

South Africa argued “at a minimum, the extension of the policy tools provided in document WT/MIN (22)/30 to therapeutics and diagnostics will result in a holistic approach to enable developing countries to address those IP barriers that prevent the expansion and diversification of production and increase accessibility to crucial live-saving COVID-19 tools. will deter the effectiveness of the decision.”

Around 20 countries took part in the discussion on paragraph eight, with India, the coordinator of the Least-Developed Countries, the Africa Group, Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil among others took the floor to share the concerns raised by South Africa. Switzerland stated its position that there is no need for extending paragraph eight, suggesting that there is no evidence for such a decision to be taken at this juncture, said people familiar with the discussion.

Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union and Norway among others from the industrialized camp echoed their respective defensive positions, said a delegate who asked not to be quoted. Major industrialized countries such as the United States, the European Union, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Taiwan and Singapore apparently highlighted a proposal on the role of intellectual property offices on intellectual property and innovation.

At a time when some of the major industrialized countries are opting for friend-shoring, reshoring and deglobalization, countries like the United States have noted, “ the industrial property protection supports international trade, and can lead to an increase in the levels of knowledge and information worldwide through the dissemination of intelligence information.” The co-sponsors of the innovation proposal said “when seeking industrial property protection in various regions/countries, it is vital for applicants that there is an established environment in which they can obtain industrial property rights smoothly and economic predictably.”

## USTR / Reports on Taiwan Initiative

Thursday the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released [summaries of texts](#) proposed by the U.S. side during the first negotiating round of the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade, which was held in Taipei, Taiwan mid-January. Five Areas are addressed in the draft:

**Customs administration and trade facilitation (CTF)** e proposed text requires online posting of all laws, regulations, and procedures related to the import, export, and transit of goods. addresses e-commerce, including through provisions that reduce restrictions on express consignment shipments and facilitate the return of goods across borders requires border agencies to accept electronic payment of duties, taxes, and fees, while also encouraging growth in electronic invoicing and electronic invoicing frameworks.

**Good regulatory practices (GRPs)** publishing draft regulations and allowing adequate time for comments to be considered. regulatory transparency tools that can expand online access to relevant information, including information about registries of existing laws, the procedural requirements of regulatory authorities, websites where draft regulations are posted and comments accepted, and the acceptability of electronic documentation, where appropriate.

**Services domestic regulation.** Licenses or other authorizations required to supply services, the draft builds on the outcomes agreed to by World Trade Organization (WTO) Members in December 2021 in the *Joint Statement Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation*. The proposed text goes beyond the existing WTO rules fairness and transparency

**Chapter on anticorruption** expands on the framework in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement by including provisions addressing money laundering, the recovery of proceeds of corruption, denial of entry for foreign public officials, and additional protections for people who report corruption.

**Small and medium-sized enterprises** The draft proposes activities to promote SMEs owned by underserved and underrepresented groups, including women, indigenous people, youth, and minorities, as well as start-ups and agricultural and rural SMEs.

## Mr. Smith Goes to Latin America

Ways & Means Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO) led a delegation south of the border last week, starting in Mexico, where the Committee's youngest Chairman in history and self-described "firebrand" had an opportunity to act statesmanlike.

"We appreciate President López Obrador meeting with our bipartisan delegation where we reaffirmed the importance of the longstanding partnership between our countries and its impact on American farmers and workers," Smith said. "U.S. crop producers and energy investors are relying on Mexico to honor its USMCA obligations and to treat U.S. biotech crops fairly... As America's largest trading market, access to the Mexican consumer is vital for American family farmers, manufacturers, and energy producers."

Mr. Smith did note that "'Recent comments about American elections are completely unacceptable and undermine our shared goals of promoting safety and encouraging peaceful trade between our nations.'" The Mexican President had threatened to encourage U.S. Latino voters to oppose the GOP if Republicans don't stop their calls for military intervention. The Mexican President said "this initiative by the Republicans, in addition to being irresponsible, is an offense to the people of Mexico and shows a lack of respect for our independence and our sovereignty."

**Ecuador**, the next stop for the delegation gave the chairman a more malleable host. “I made sure to visit Ecuador on my first international trip as Ways and Means Committee Chairman because the U.S.-Ecuador relationship is a high priority,” said Mr. Smith. “We must use every tool at our disposal, including trade, to counter China’s influence in Latin America, and I shared my concerns with President Lasso about Ecuador’s expanding trade ties with China.

“Additionally, Ecuador’s import licensing regime and variable tariffs make it very difficult for American farmers, including beef and pork producers, to export to Ecuador. There are opportunities to strengthen our relationship with Ecuador for the benefit of American workers, farmers, small businesses, and our national security.” In January 2023, Ecuador and China announced that they had completed negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement.

In **Guyana**, the delegation met with President Irfaan Ali and several other cabinet members, opposition members and officials from ExxonMobil. **Guyana’s offshore oil gas development is owned by a consortium led by ExxonMobil**. Affiliate **Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Ltd.** is the operator and holds a 45% interest. **Hess Guyana Exploration Ltd.** holds 30% and **CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Ltd.** holds the remaining 25%.

In addition to Chairman Smith, the delegation included **Rep. Terri Sewell** (D-Ala), **Rep. Carol Miller** (R-WV), **Rep. Michelle Fischbach** (R-Minn), **Rep. Beth Van Duyne** (R-Texas), **Rep. Mike Carey** (R-Ohio), and **Rep. Kelly Armstrong** (R-ND) of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

### \*\*\* Briefs \*\*\*

## Another Kenya Trip for Team USTR

The United States and Kenya are planning to hold an in-person negotiating round under the bilateral Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership in Kenya from April 17-20, the US Trade Representative’s Office announced yesterday. The two sides held “conceptual discussions” last month, when they discussed key concepts to be addressed in the negotiations.

The Administration last year decided to launch "partnership negotiations" in lieu of the comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement begun under the Trump Administration. Like other trade initiatives launched by the Biden White House, the partnership with Kenya will not directly address market access through tariff reductions, instead focusing on regulatory issues and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Areas that the two sides have agreed to discuss are agriculture, anti-corruption; digital trade; environment and climate action; good regulatory practices; micro, small and medium size enterprises; protecting worker’s rights and protections; supporting the participation of women, youth and others in trade; standards collaboration; trade facilitation and customs procedures and services domestic regulation.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai has said the US-Kenya STIP ideally will be the model for similar agreements with other African nations. The US delegation will be led by Assistant USTR Connie Hamilton, and will include representatives from several other US government agencies. No word yet on the Safari plans.

## Dirty Miner Gets Clean Slate

A Pennsylvania coal miner formerly controlled by Texas buyout firm **Quintana Capital** has been given a pass on prosecution for FCPA violations involving \$143 million in coal sales to Egypt in exchange for a \$1.2 million payment to the Department of Justice Fraud Division. The Declination comes one year after the March 2022 arrest of **Corsa Coal** Vice President Charles Hobson. In November 2021, a former sales manager of the company, Frederick Cushmore, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the FCPA in connection with the same scheme. In December 2021 Quintana Capital liquidated its Corsa position by distributing its holdings of approximately 45% of the outstanding common shares of the Company to their limited partners.

In 2020 and 2021 Corsa Coal had received \$8.35 million in Paycheck Protection Grants from the federal government. Corsa's attorneys successfully made the case that, despite that windfall and a record surge in coal prices, the company was able to disgorge no more than \$1.2 million of the approximately \$32.7 million in profits realized from the scheme.

## AES Update for New BIS License Types

The Automated Export System has been modified to report shipments governed by last Fall's *Certain Advanced Computing and Semiconductor Manufacturing Items; Supercomputer and Semiconductor End Use* Rules. Following October's *Authorized Cybersecurity Exports* action the Department of Commerce has established a [Temporary General License](#) to avoid disruption of supply chains for certain items that are ultimately destined to customers outside of People's Republic of China (China) or Macau.

In a separate series of actions, the BIS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration issued a number of **Supply Chain Authorization Letters** which describe specific authorizations granted pursuant to requests based on exigent circumstances of actual or potential supply chain disruptions.

**As a result of these actions, changes will be made to the Automated Export System (AES)** in order for exporters and authorized agents to successfully report electronic export information in the AES.

A complete list of all of the AES License Codes and reporting instructions for these types can be found at: [AESTIR Appendix F - License and License Exemption Type Codes | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)](#)

## Bill to Beef Up C-TPAT

Bipartisan legislation to beef up the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism was introduced by Sens. Tom Carper (D-Del) and John Cornyn (R-Texas). The legislation – the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Pilot Program Act – would create a pilot program to strengthen the C-TPAT program within Customs and Border Protection. The same measure was introduced in the last Congress and approved by the Senate, but did not see action in the House.

“The C-TPAT program has already proven successful in safely expediting the customs clearance process for trusted merchants,” according to Sen. Carper. “By expanding access to this program, we can reduce congestion at ports of entry while strengthening our national security – a win-win!”

The bill would create a pilot program that would allow up to 20 trusted non-asset and asset based, third-party logistic providers to become C-TPAT certified. The carrier companies would work with Customs certified by meeting additional security requirements and participating in inspections throughout the cargo transit process.

C-TPAT was created as a part of the SAFE Port Act of 2006 to support secure cross-border trade through a fast-track, customs clearance process for trusted merchants who voluntarily submit themselves to enhanced security screening measures.

### \*\*\* Calendar \*\*\*

**DDTC Webinar: DECCS 101 Refresher.** March 21st from 2:00- 3:00 PM ET Join Department of State, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls’ (DDTC) IT Modernization Team for a 101 refresher of the Defense Export Control and Compliance System (DECCS) application suite and an overview of new updates for DECCS. The webinar will cover general user management functionality within DECCS, as well as a brief overview of Commodity Jurisdictions, Advisory Opinions, Registration, and Licensing applications, AND process updates to Electronic Export Information (EEI) filings through the Automated Export System (AES) when citing United States Munitions List (USML) Category XXI. Register:

<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2023/deccs-101-refresher-and-important-updates.html>

**The Regulations and Procedures Technical Advisory Committee (RPTAC)** will meet March 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, via hybrid. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on implementation of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and provides for continuing review to update the EAR as needed.

**House Ways & Means – USTR Katherine Tai.** Hearing on the Administration’s 2023 Trade Policy. Friday 24 March, 2023. 9 AM Webcast: <https://waysandmeans.house.gov>

**The Materials and Equipment Technical Advisory Committee** will meet on March 30, 2023, 10 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time. The meeting will be virtual.

**WITA Welcomes Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO.**

Wednesday, April 12, 2023. 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET. Hybrid: In-person and via Zoom | In-Person Event in the Rotunda | Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC

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