

# Washington Tariff & Trade Letter

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## [End to Firearms Export "Pause" Looms; Rules Leaked](#)

The Commerce Department's October 27 "pause" in the issuance of new export licenses involving firearms under its jurisdiction is expected to end this month, and industry and its friends in Congress are girding for battle.

The Protect American Gun Exporter Act introduced by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) seeks to forbid the Secretary from similar actions in the future and bar "unilateral" policy changes, while a leaked Commerce document proposes quite a few.

In a draft Federal Register Notice obtained by the website "The Reload" marked "predecisional" Commerce proposes the addition of two new ECCNs, enhanced documentation requirements and other changes to improve traceability and control of the civilian arms trade. [READ MORE](#)

## [EU Steel & Aluminum Tariff Suspension Extended](#)

President Joe Biden announced the extension of the suspension of tariffs on European Union steel and aluminum for an additional two years. This move continues the agreement initially set in January 2022, aiming to foster ongoing negotiations focusing on global overcapacity and the promotion of low-carbon production in these industries.

The original suspension replaced the tariffs implemented by former President Donald Trump, which included a 25% tariff on EU steel and 10% on EU aluminum, with a tariff rate quota (TRQ) system [READ MORE](#)

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[www.wttonline.com](http://www.wttonline.com)

Editor: Frank Ruffing +1.703.283.5220. [fruffing@traderegs.com](mailto:fruffing@traderegs.com)

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## [USTR Extends Exclusions from China Section 301 Tariffs](#)

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has announced an extension of reinstated and COVID-related exclusions from the China Section 301 tariffs until May 31, 2024. Originally set to expire on December 31, 2023, this extension allows for public comments and aligns with the ongoing four-year review.

“The extension will enable the orderly sunset of the exclusions,” the USTR said. Additional time could be granted to “enable shifts in sourcing to the United States or third countries.” [READ MORE](#)

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## [China Sanctions US Compliance Firm, Limits Tech Exports](#)

China announced it will impose sanctions on a United States company and two individuals in reaction to similar measures taken by the U.S. against Chinese officials and entities.

The December 26 sanctions target Kharon, a U.S. intelligence data firm, its director of investigations Edmund Xu, and former researcher Nicole Morgret. These sanctions are a response to allegations and measures concerning the situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region. [READ MORE](#)

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## [OFAC: Yemeni, Turkish Financiers Targeted](#)

Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated one individual and three entities responsible for facilitating the flow of Iranian financial assistance to Houthi forces in Yemen.

Among those designated today is the head of the Currency Exchangers Association in Sana’a, and three exchange houses in Yemen and Türkiye. [READ MORE](#)

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## [Humanitarian Charity Fined for Export Violations](#)

A New Hampshire charity delivering humanitarian aid to Syria was sentenced in federal court for export offenses. NuDay was sentenced December 28 by U.S. District Court Judge Joseph N. Laplante to five years of probation, the maximum penalty for an organizational defendant. NuDay was also ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine. On September 8, 2023, NuDay pleaded guilty to three counts of Failure to File Export Information. [READ MORE](#)