

Washington Tariff & Trade Letter

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TARIFF ACTIONS

Bonus Tariffs on Canned Beer

The Trump administration has imposed a 25% tariff on all imported canned beer and empty aluminum cans beginning Friday April 4, according to a notice issued by the Department of Commerce. Modelo—the top-selling beer in the U.S.—is primarily distributed in cans. [READ MORE](#)

Liberation Day Tariffs Announced

Again dispensing with the niceties of congressional consent, President Trump invoked emergency powers and levied a 10% tariff on imports from all countries effective April 5th. April 9th will see "individualized reciprocal higher tariffs" on countries with which the United States has the largest trade deficits. [READ MORE](#)

Emergency Trade Powers Rebuffed

As the President continued to exercise self-proclaimed emergency powers to impose tariffs and regulate international commerce, the Senate voted to strip those powers used in February to impose tariffs on Canada. [READ MORE](#)

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POLICY & POLITICS

[TikTok Deadline Creeps Despite Law](#)

Citing the "tremendous progress" his team has made, President Trump issued a second executive order delaying the enforcement of a nationwide ban on TikTok, despite the statutory limit allowing only a single extension. The new order, signed on April 4, extends the ban's implementation by another 75 days, exceeding the authority outlined in the Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act (PAFACA). [READ MORE](#)

[USTR Trade Barrier Report](#)

On March 31, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) submitted the 2025 National Trade Estimate (NTE) to President Trump and Congress. The annual report surveys significant foreign trade barriers confronting U.S. exporters and supports the administration's "America First" trade policy. This year's NTE catalogues trade barriers in nearly 60 economies. China (pages 48–95) and the European Union (pages 129–162) receive extended focus. [READ MORE](#)

[US Parts Plant in Mexico Cites in USMCA Case](#)

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) invoked the Rapid Response Labor Mechanism (RRM) under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to request that Mexico review ... [READ MORE](#)

EXPORT CONTROL

[BIS Budget Cuts Draw Further Fire](#)

Bipartisan outcry over proposed cuts to the budget of the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) [13631] is building, as appropriators and industry begin to grasp both the magnitude and the administrative ruse involved. [READ MORE](#)

[Advisory Committees Under New Regime](#)

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) appears to be planning to keep at least some of the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) which have long defined the collaborative nature of export enforcement and trade security. The candor and efficacy of the new regime may be different though. [READ MORE](#)

[Missile Tech Rules in New World Order](#)

As the Trump administration adopts a unilateral approach to arms control and regional defense, customary avenues of discussion are being reassessed, including multilateral export controls. [READ MORE](#)

SANCTIONS & ENFORCEMENT

[Bipartisan Call for Easing Syria Sanctions](#)

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers has called on the Departments of State and Treasury to revise longstanding sanctions on Syria, warning that existing restrictions—imposed over a decade ago—are impeding reconstruction, destabilizing the region, and potentially undermining U.S. national security objectives. [READ MORE](#)

[More Iran Drone Sanctions](#)

The U.S. Departments of Justice and Treasury took coordinated action to disrupt an Iranian procurement network that illicitly acquired U.S.-origin technology to support Iran's drone program and its military-industrial complex. April 1, 2025, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) imposed sanctions on eight individuals and six entities across Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the People's Republic of China (PRC) for their roles in acquiring components for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) used by Iran's military. [READ MORE](#)

[Russian Aircraft Parts Smuggler Sentenced](#)

A Russian national residing in Florida was sentenced to 70 months in prison for conspiring to illegally export controlled aviation technology to Russia and for laundering funds connected to the scheme. His co-conspirator was sentenced in December 2024 to two years in prison. [READ MORE](#)

[Money Laundering Pardon Unprecedented Move](#)

In a rare and possibly unprecedented action, former President Donald Trump issued a full presidential pardon to a corporation, HDR Global Trading, operator of cryptocurrency exchange BitMEX. The pardon was granted alongside clemency for three of the company's co-founders and one employee, all convicted of violating the Bank Secrecy Act. [READ MORE](#)

[Lacey Act Convictions](#)

In separate prosecutions under the Lacey Act, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the sentencing of five individuals for wildlife trafficking operations that illegally exported protected species from U.S. territories to Asia and the Caribbean. [READ MORE](#)

[Perkins Coie Updates](#)

Perkins Coie has launched a dedicated website, perkinscoiefacts.com, outlining their response to the unconstitutional Executive Order targeting the firm. The site houses statements, filings, and other information about their response to the Order. [READ MORE](#)