

December 22, 2026

Mr. Mark Paoletta
General Counsel and Acting Administrator, Office of Information
and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Information Collection, *Inclusions to the Section 232 National Security Adjustments to Imports* (OMB Control Number: 0694-0146)

Dear Acting Administrator Paoletta:

The associations listed below are pleased to provide written comments and recommendations in response to the information collection proposed by the Department of Commerce's (Commerce or the Department) Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) addressing proposed and continuing information collections related to inclusions to the Section 232 national security tariffs.

Comments

The Section 232 Inclusions Process established by the Department of Commerce in the May 2, 2025, Interim Final Rule, "Adoption and Procedures of the Section 232 Steel and Aluminum Tariff Inclusions Process" (90 FR 18780) ("the Interim Rule") has significant limitations, leading to a heavy compliance burden, including substantial costs, for U.S. importers and the American families they support.

NFTC and TRC members have expressed concerns to Commerce on several aspects of the information collection process for the derivative aluminum and steel articles 232 inclusion process. Thirty TRC members across multiple industry sectors joined a [multi-association letter](#) providing input to Commerce on the Interim Rule expressing concern that the information collection and process for reviewing proposed products:

- is too short (14 days) to provide for meaningful industry input and does not include a public hearing,
- does not specify key criteria that will form the basis of the Department's review,
- will adversely impact a wide array of downstream products that do not include material quantities of steel or aluminum, and
- is likely to result in significant supply chain disruption across multiple sectors, including sectors that are essential to national security.

The first tranche of inclusion requests validated our concerns. On August 15, Commerce announced the expansion of the Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs to 407 new Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes comprising roughly \$240 billion of imports, effective after midnight on August 18.

Subsequently, more than 40 associations signed [a letter](#) to BIS Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce conveying concrete challenges confronting U.S. companies when hundreds of new HTS codes were added to the scope of Section 232 duties with only 48 hours advanced notice over a weekend.

The letter explains the massive compliance challenges that importers faced in having to suddenly and unexpectedly obtain additional data that extends well beyond Tier 1 suppliers in order to report the country where steel was melted and poured and aluminum was smelted and cast, along with the weight, and value of even minute quantities of steel and aluminum. Many of the products added as “derivatives” include large basket product categories that require companies to invest time and money on administrative compliance steps to verify the content of items lacking any steel or aluminum content. When products do contain any amount of steel or aluminum, failure to document all of the required data results in an importer owing the applicable 232 duty on the entire value of the product. Companies need a reasonable transition period so that they have time to collect the necessary data before Section 232 tariffs are applied to new derivative products.

Our concerns with the complexity and uncertainty of the information required for sudden new product inclusions skyrockets as BIS expands this process to additional rounds of steel and aluminum derivatives and expands it to additional Section 232 investigations (e.g., copper, auto parts, timber/lumber, and future sectors). We urge the Department to revisit its procedures for ongoing and future Section 232 inclusions, to avoid further unpredictable product expansions, provide comprehensive compliance guidance, ensure a transparent stakeholder consultation process, and make targeted determinations to include only those products that are clearly derivative, with meaningful dutiable content and a clear nexus to national security.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and welcome continued dialogue on ways to improve the Section 232 inclusion process. Please feel free to contact Tiffany Smith (tsmith@nftc.org) if you have any questions on the issues raised in this submission or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

American Automotive Policy Council
American Chemistry Council
Associated Equipment Distributors
Autos Drive America
Automotive Body Parts Association
Coalition of American Metal Manufacturers and Users (CAMMU)
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)

Global Business Alliance
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Retail Federation (NRF)
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Outdoor Power Parts and Accessories Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
PRINTING United Alliance
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
TechNet
United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association
VDMA America