

Mexico takes retaliatory measures against US imposition of steel and aluminum tariffs

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On 23 March 2018, President Trump imposed additional duties for steel and aluminum, based on the United States Department of Commerce's investigations and recommendations under Section 232 of the *Trade Expansion Act of 1962*, as amended, which concluded that certain imports of these items threatened to impair the national security of the United States (US). Mexico, Canada and the European Union (EU) were temporarily excluded from these tariffs.

Notwithstanding the above, on 31 May 2018, the US announced that it would suspend the previous exemptions granted for the additional tariffs of 25% on specifically defined articles of steel and additional tariffs of 10% on specifically defined articles of aluminum goods imported into the US from the previously excluded North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) countries and the EU.

Mexico, Canada and the EU swiftly announced retaliatory actions to be taken commensurate with the anticipated duty impacts to their respective country exports. On 5 June 2018, the Mexican Government published the list of products that, effective on such date, are subject to a retaliatory duty. Such duties only apply on permanent imports, therefore, temporary imports such as those conducted under the Manufacturing Industry, Maquiladora and Export Services (IMMEX) program will not be affected.

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