



2025/1581

29.7.2025

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2025/1581

of 29 July 2025

amending and correcting Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2015/478 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for imports ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 16 and 20 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2015/755 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 on common rules for imports from certain third countries ⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 13(1) and 16 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/612 ⁽³⁾ introduced some adjustments to the functioning of the definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products pursuant to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 ⁽⁴⁾. One of the adjustments was the introduction of a 15 % cap to the share of the overall volume that may be provided by any single exporting country in category 17 ('Angles, Shapes and Sections of Iron or Non Alloy Steel').
- (2) Category 17, where Ukraine has historically been the biggest exporter to the Union, was 'globalised' in 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, because Ukraine was no longer able to export the product, and this created a risk of shortage of supply for Union users ⁽⁵⁾. In practice, this meant that the existing country-specific quotas of the UK, Türkiye and Korea were merged with the quota for other countries ('residual quota'), to establish instead a single quota available for all origins.
- (3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/978 provided for the possibility to reassess the globalisation of the quota in view of the development of trade flows in those categories and of the suspension of the application of the safeguard *vis-a-vis* Ukraine, or if undue crowding out effects are identified ⁽⁶⁾.
- (4) The review investigation identified undue crowding out of certain traditional suppliers in category 17. Therefore, the Commission introduced a 15 % cap in that category ⁽⁷⁾. However, available information indicates that country-cap is affecting the traditional trade flows of certain trading partners, restricting their access to duty-free volumes to levels below their historical trade levels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 16, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/478/oj>.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 123, 19.5.2015, p. 33, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/755/oj>.

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/612 of 24 March 2025 amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products (OJ L, 2025/612, 25.3.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/612/oj).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 of 31 January 2019 imposing definitive safeguard measures against imports of certain steel products (OJ L 31, 1.2.2019, p. 27, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/159/oj).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/978 of 23 June 2022 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products (OJ L 167, 24.6.2022, p. 58, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/978/oj).

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/978 of 23 June 2022 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products (OJ L 167, 24.6.2022, p. 58, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/978/oj), recital (19).

⁽⁷⁾ See Section 6.3.3 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/612 of 24 March 2025 amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products (OJ L, 2025/612, 25.3.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/612/oj).

- (5) Consequently, the Commission considers that the 15 % country-cap should be removed in order to preserve the traditional trade of these trading partners, with effect as of 1 August 2025.
- (6) To prevent the undue crowding out of traditional suppliers while preserving historical trade flows, the Commission finds it appropriate to reintroduce the country-specific quotas for the UK, Türkiye and Korea, and to reinstate the residual quota. Because there is also a risk of undue crowding out of traditional suppliers within this residual quota, the Commission finds it appropriate to introduce a 40 % cap per origin.
- (7) The access of certain origins to duty-free volumes corresponding to their traditional trade should be restored swiftly, in this case as of 1 August 2025.
- (8) Since it was not possible to introduce this change at the beginning of a safeguard quarter, the country-specific quotas of the UK, Türkiye and Korea and the 'other countries' quota for the quarter 1.7.2025 – 30.9.2025 will be determined by allocating on a pro-rata basis the remaining duty-free volumes available under the globalised quota on 1 August 2025, as indicated in Annex IV to this Implementing Regulation, which is based on traditional trade flows per origin.
- (9) As noted in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/612 (recital (72)), category 17 was classified under group 2 (significant import pressure). Therefore, the Commission considers that it is not appropriate to provide country-specific quota holders access to the residual quota during the last quarter of a safeguard year. For that purpose, the relevant tables in the Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 are corrected.
- (10) Since the United Kingdom – Northern Ireland quota ('UKNI quota') of category 17 is used exclusively by United Kingdom originating goods which are brought into Northern Ireland by direct transport from other parts of the United Kingdom and released for free circulation in the territory of Northern Ireland, as set out in Regulation (EU) 2023/2840 ^(*), this quota will not be impacted by the changes to the quota management of category 17. Furthermore, the UKNI quota does not affect the pro-rata allocation of volumes to quotas of third countries.
- (11) Furthermore, this Regulation should correct some other inaccuracies that have been identified after the publication of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/612.
- (12) As noted in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/612 (recital 76), in category 4B ('Metallic Coated Sheets'), interested parties presented convincing evidence demonstrating that maintaining the status-quo aligns with the Union's best interest. Therefore, category 4B was classified under 'Group 4' (no import pressure). Thus, for the sake of correctness, a cap in category 4B is removed.
- (13) In addition, in order to ensure that the requirements of Article 1 paragraph 7 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 are respected, footnotes 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 23 in Annex IV.1 are corrected.
- (14) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Safeguards established under Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 and Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2015/755 respectively,

^(*) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2840 of 14 December 2023 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 imposing a definitive safeguard measure on imports of certain steel products (OJ L, 2023/2840, 15.12.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/2840/oj).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 1(5), is replaced by the following:

‘5. Where the relevant tariff-rate quota under paragraph 2 is exhausted for one specific country, imports from that country for some product categories can be made under the remaining part of the tariff-rate quota for the same product category. This provision shall only apply during the last quarter of each year of application of the definitive tariff-rate quota. For product categories 1A, 2, 3B, 4A, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25B and 26 no further access to the remaining part of the tariff-rate quota will be allowed. For product categories 1B, 3A, 9, 10, 12, 27 and 28 only access to a specific volume within the tariff-rate quota volume initially available in the last quarter, will be allowed. In product category 4B no exporting country shall be allowed to use, on its own, more than 30 % of the residual tariff-rate quota volume initially available in the last quarter of each year of application of measures.’;

- (2) Article 1(7), is replaced by the following:

‘7. A maximum import volume for categories 1A and 2 is 13 %; for category 16 is 15 %; for categories 6, 7 and 13 is 20 %; for categories 4A, 5 and 14 is 25 %; for categories 3B, 20, 21, 25B and 26 is 30 % per country of the available free-of-duty quota at the beginning of the quarter established in Annex IV.1 to this Regulation shall be applicable to countries importing through the residual quota. Furthermore, a maximum import volume for category 17 is 40 % per country of the available free-of-duty quota on 1 August 2025 importing through the residual quota. The maximum import volume applies to countries not having a country-specific quota and is applicable in all quarters.’;

- (3) paragraph 8 is added to Article 1:

‘8. For the period between 1.8.2025 and 30.9.2025, the remaining volume of the quota available on 1 August 2025 in Category 17 will be allocated to the respective quotas on the basis of the pro-rata figures in the Annex VI to this Regulation.’.

Article 2

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 is corrected as follows:

- (1) footnote 1 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:

‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8601

From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8602

From 1.7 to 30.6: For Egypt: 09.8450, for Vietnam: 09.8451, for Japan: 09.8452, for Taiwan: 09.8453, for Australia: 09.8454, for Switzerland: 09.8455, for United States: 09.8456, for Libya: 09.8457, for Canada: 09.8458 and for Algeria: 09.8459’;

- (2) footnote 2 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:

‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8661

From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8662’;

- (3) footnote 6 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:

‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8609

From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8610

From 1.7 to 30.6: For Türkiye: 09.8430, for Vietnam: 09.8431, for Taiwan: 09.8432 and for Tunisia: 09.8422’;

- (4) footnote 7 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:

‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8611

From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8612

From 1.4 to 30.6: For China*: 09.8581, for Korea, Republic of*: 09.8582, for India*: 09.8583 and for United Kingdom*: 09.8584 *In case of exhaustion of their specific quotas in accordance with Article 1.5’;

- (5) footnote 9 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8615
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8616
From 1.7 to 30.6: for India: 09.8423, for Türkiye: 09.8424 and for Japan: 09.8419’;
- (6) footnote 10 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8617
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8618
From 1.7 to 30.6: for India: 09.8425, for Indonesia: 09.8426, for Korea, Republic of: 09.8427 and for Türkiye: 09.8418’;
- (7) footnote 15 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8627
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8628
From 1.7 to 30.6: for Algeria: 09.8428, for Egypt: 09.8429 and for China: 09.8417’;
- (8) footnote 16 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8629
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8630
From 1.7 to 30.6: for China: 09.8436, for Taiwan: 09.8437 and for United States: 09.8415’;
- (9) footnote 18 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8633
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8634
From 1.7 to 30.6: For Malaysia: 09.8460, for Algeria: 09.8461, for Egypt: 09.8462, for Bosnia and Herzegovina: 09.8463, for Korea, Republic of: 09.8464, for Japan: 09.8466, for Indonesia: 09.8465, for Serbia: 09.8467 and for Vietnam: 09.8468’;
- (10) footnote 19 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8635
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8636
From 1.7 to 30.6: for China: 09.8448, for Switzerland: 09.8469 and for United Arab Emirates: 09.8409’;
- (11) footnote 23 in Annex IV.1 is replaced by the following:
‘From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8643
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8644
From 1.7 to 30.6: for China: 09.8442, for Serbia: 09.8443 and for Bosnia and Herzegovina: 09.8449’;
- (12) Table IV.1 with the title ‘Volumes of tariff–rate quotas’ concerning product category 17 in Annex IV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 is replaced by the table in Annex I to this Implementing Regulation;
- (13) Table IV.2 with the title ‘Volumes of global and residual tariff–rate quotas per trimester’ concerning product category 17 of Annex IV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 is replaced by the table in Annex II to this Implementing Regulation;
- (14) Table IV.3 with the title ‘Maximum volume of residual quota accessible in last quarters to countries with a country specific quota’ concerning product category 17 of Annex IV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159 is replaced by the table in Annex III to this Implementing Regulation.

Article 3

The text set out in the Annex IV to this Regulation is added as Annex VI to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/159.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
This Regulation shall apply from 1 August 2025.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 July 2025.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX I

Product Number	Product category	CN Codes	Allocation by country (Where Applicable)	Year 8				Additional duty rate	Order numbers
				From 1.8.2025 to 30.9.2025	From 1.10.2025 to 31.12.2025	From 1.1.2026 to 31.3.2026	From 1.4.2026 to 30.6.2026		
				Volume of tariff quota (net tonnes)					
17	Angles, Shapes and Sections of Iron or Non Alloy Steel	7216 31 10, 7216 31 90, 7216 32 11, 7216 32 19, 7216 32 91, 7216 32 99, 7216 33 10, 7216 33 90	Ukraine	31 662,59	31 662,59	30 974,27	31 318,43	25 %	09.8891
			United Kingdom	volumes to be calculated as defined in Article 1(8)	27 506,58	26 908,61	27 207,60	25 %	09.8897
			Türkiye	volumes to be calculated as defined in Article 1(8)	22 892,27	22 394,61	22 643,44	25 %	09.8892
			Korea, Republic of	volumes to be calculated as defined in Article 1(8)	5 335,16	5 219,18	5 277,17	25 %	09.8893
			Other countries	volumes to be calculated as defined in Article 1(8)	12 555,44	12 282,49	12 418,96	25 %	(¹)
			United Kingdom (to Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom	14 254,99	14 254,99	13 945,10	14 100,05	25 %	09.8499

(¹) From 1.7 to 31.3: 09.8635
From 1.4 to 30.6: 09.8636
From 1.7 to 30.6: for China: 09.8448, for Switzerland: 09.8469 and for United Arab Emirates: 09.8409.

ANNEX II

Product Number	Allocation by country (Where Applicable)	Year 8			
		From 1.8.2025 to 30.9.2025	From 1.10.2025 to 31.12.2025	From 1.1.2026 to 31.3.2026	From 1.4.2026 to 30.6.2026
		Volume of tariff quota (net tonnes)			
17	Other countries	volumes to be calculated as defined in Article 1(8)	12 555,44	12 282,49	12 418,96

ANNEX III

Product category	New allocated quota in tonnes
	From 1.4.2026 to 30.6.2026
17	No access to the residual quota in Q4

ANNEX IV

‘ANNEX VI

Country	From 1.8.2025 to 30.9.2025
	Pro-rata allocation of the remaining duty-free volumes available under the globalised quota on 1.8.2025
United Kingdom	40,28 %
Türkiye	33,52 %
Korea, Republic of	7,81 %
Other countries	18,39 %