

ICC Global Trade Update

4 September 2026

DISCLAIMER: Given the fast-moving trade policy environment, please ensure that latest developments have been taken into account in your operations and communications. This update is prepared exclusively for ICC members and National Committees. External sharing or publication is not permitted.

Contents

United States of America	1
China.....	3
European Union	3
United Kingdom	4
Brazil	4
Free Trade Agreements	5
World Trade Organization.....	5
APEC	5
Trade Remedies	5
Clarification	6
ICC News & Publications	7
What We're Reading	7

United States of America

US-Canada

- On 22 August, the US imposed an additional 50% ad valorem duty on around US\$20 billion of Canadian goods under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930. This marks the first use of that authority, following three [proclamations](#) signed on 20 July that cite separate findings of Canadian discrimination covering alcoholic beverages, dairy and motor vehicles. The duties apply regardless of USMCA origination, span roughly 554 eight-digit tariff lines under HTSUS headings 9903.03.12 to 9903.03.14, and were deferred from 19 to 22 August by a [suspension proclamation](#) after a provisional deal that collapsed on 21 August. Exclusions are narrow (energy, potash, goods already under Section 232, fish, certain critical minerals and civil aircraft), and the motor-vehicle annex reaches into Chapters 84 and 85, including IT and data-centre hardware. Importers should screen every line against all three annexes and CBP [guidance](#), since a valid USMCA certificate does not exempt a listed good.

- On 24 August, Canada [announced](#) reciprocal countermeasures effective 8 September 2026, matching the US action dollar-for-dollar with counter-tariffs of 15, 25 and 50% on products drawn from those hit by US Section 338 and Section 232 measures. The counter-tariffs cover around C\$27.6 billion of US imports, concentrated in steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics. The full product [list](#) is published, alongside C\$7.5 billion of new and enhanced support for affected workers and businesses. US exporters in the targeted sectors should model reciprocal exposure ahead of 8 September.
- In response, President Trump threatened to raise tariffs on all Canadian cars, trucks, auto parts and steel to 50%, though not until 1 January 2027.

National Emergency: Bulk-Power System

- The US declared a national emergency by [Executive Order 14420](#) under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the National Emergencies Act, prohibiting the acquisition, importation, transfer or installation of foreign-produced bulk-power system equipment linked to Covered Foreign Entities, including China. Covered equipment spans transformers, inverters, circuit breakers, battery energy storage systems, generators, turbines and industrial control systems. The Department of Energy has until 24 December 2026 to publish implementing rules. No vendor is barred until risk determinations issue, and conditions including removal may apply to equipment installed before 26 August 2026. The measure operates as a procurement and import-screening instrument rather than a tariff.

Pharmaceutical Pricing

- On 31 August, President Trump [announced](#) nine further agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers to lower prescription prices. These MFN pricing agreements carry implications for firms seeking tariff concessions under the Section 232 tariffs on pharmaceuticals.

Lean-Beef Tariff-Rate Quota

- The US administration has [temporarily increased](#) the in-quota volume for lean-beef trimmings by 300,000 metric tonnes. It will be released in three 100,000-tonne tranches from 1 September 2026 for 90 days to reduce ground-beef prices (see the [fact sheet](#)). The expansion excludes countries with a US FTA or country-specific beef quota and is conditioned on combination with US beef. The USDA forecasts a decline of around 4% in US beef production in 2026.

Notorious Markets List

- USTR is [seeking](#) public input for its 2026 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy, with new emphasis on sophisticated counterfeits described as superfakes or superclones, inviting nominations of online and physical markets that facilitate trademark counterfeiting or copyright piracy.

IEEPA Refunds

- CBP [reported](#) that, as of 21 August 2026, it had processed approximately US\$106.6 billion in IEEPA tariff refunds through its CAPE system, with US\$1.7 billion undispersed for missing bank account information. CBP has postponed deployment of CAPE Phase 3, which covers finally liquidated entries subject to court-ordered reliquidation, while it

builds additional validations; CAPE declarations should not be filed for entries more than 80 days past the liquidation date.

Forced-Labour Enforcement

- CBP [refreshed](#) its Forced Labor Enforcement Operational Guidance for Importers, encouraging origin-verification testing so importers can trace raw materials and reduce trade-fraud risk, with chain-of-custody evidence tied to the shipment in an applicability package.

Customs Enforcement and Administration

- **Importer of record:** CBP issued a [notice](#) implementing [Executive Order 14411](#) on strengthening customs enforcement, applying enhanced procedures to verify importer-of-record data on CBP Form 5106 and voiding numbers where information is inaccurate or incomplete.
- **Duty drawback:** CBP [clarified](#) that Section 301 duties on certain products from Brazil (HTSUS 9903.05.01) and Section 301 forced-labour import duties (9903.05.20 to 9903.05.84) are drawback eligible.
- **Copper reporting:** from 14 September 2026, CBP will reject entry summaries for certain copper articles that omit the primary country of smelt and the country of cast, per CSMS [notice #69711865](#).
- **Entry-summary order:** CBP issued [guidance](#) (CSMS #69668138) on the order of reporting for multiple HTS lines where 98 or 99 headings are required.
- **First Sale valuation:** in ruling [HQ H357206](#), CBP determined that a manufacturer-to-intermediary price could not serve as the First Sale transaction value in a multi-tiered transaction among related parties.

China

Countermeasure against the EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation

- On 19 August, the Chinese Ministry of Justice, together with the Ministry of Commerce and other authorities, [invoked](#) its Regulations on Countering Improper Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. They determined that the EU cross-border investigative measures against Chinese entities in its Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) probe into JD.com constitute improper extraterritorial jurisdiction and directed that no organisation or individual shall implement or assist such measures.

European Union

Steel Regulation: Melt and Pour Origin

- On 31 August the Commission published the [implementing regulation](#) setting melt-and-pour origin requirements under the new Steel Regulation in force since 1 July 2026, taking effect on 1 October 2026, with the Mill Test Certificate as preferred evidence alongside complementary and, in some cases, alternative documents.

CBAM Guidance

- The Commission published [guidance](#) for CBAM verifiers and National Accreditation Bodies, covering verification of emissions reports for non-EU installations producing CBAM goods imported from 1 January 2026, and new processes for accredited verifiers to [access](#) the CBAM registry. Separately, press [reports](#) indicate the Commission has confirmed a request for a region-specific default value for US-origin ammonia.

PEM Convention

- The Commission published an [advance notice](#) on applying the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin, enabling diagonal cumulation between Kosovo and Norway/Iceland (from 1 September 2026), Kosovo and Switzerland/Liechtenstein (from 1 October 2026), and Palestine and the EU (from 28 July 2026).

United Kingdom

HMRC Consultations

- **AEO checks:** HMRC is [exploring](#) whether some customs checks for AEO-authorised businesses could take place at trader premises rather than at the port, seeking views on the benefits, challenges and practical considerations.
- **Exporter services:** HMRC has launched a [survey](#) on improving government services for exporters. Businesses should respond to shape the design of both measures.

UK-Morocco Procurement Agreement

- The UK government launched a [call for evidence](#) on a possible UK-Morocco Procurement Agreement.

UK CBAM: Qualifying Carbon Pricing Schemes

- The UK [published](#) a list of overseas carbon-pricing schemes that currently meet the qualifying criteria under the [UK CBAM regulations](#) to help importers assess whether embodied emissions in a CBAM good have been subject to an eligible overseas scheme.

Brazil

Tariff Reductions

- Brazil published [Resolucao Gecex no 950](#), adding six products to the list of temporary tariff reductions granted for supply-shortage reasons under Mercosur, each receiving a zero in-quota tariff for 12 months with quotas opening on staggered dates from 28 August 2026. The measure covers sodium sulphate, food-grade sodium caseinate, post-condensed PET resin, partially oriented polyester yarn, radar antenna rotary joints and high-voltage generator circuit breakers, with SECEX to set allocation criteria.

Free Trade Agreements

Switzerland-China FTA Optimisation

- On 20 August, Switzerland and China [concluded](#) negotiations to optimise their existing FTA, under which 99.8% of current Swiss exports will enter China duty-free, with expanded provisions on investment access, environment and labour, rules of origin, trade facilitation, services, digital trade and competition.

CPTPP

- Secretariat:** press [reports](#) indicate Japan is preparing to offer to host a newly created CPTPP Secretariat.
- South Korea:** press [reports](#) indicate South Korea is launching a formal public consultation on joining the CPTPP, citing supply-chain stability and export-market expansion. Firms trading across the CPTPP region should monitor the prospect of Korean accession.

World Trade Organization

Disputes

- At its meeting on 28 August, the Dispute Settlement Body [adopted](#) a panel report concerning the EU anti-dumping duties on imports of fatty acid from Indonesia. Parties to similar EU anti-dumping measures should review the panel findings for read-across.

APEC

Trade in Services

- APEC officials met in Dalian to [advance](#) the APEC Roadmap for Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Services, focusing on practical barriers to cross-border services trade, with digital trade a priority.

Trade Remedies

EU Measures

- Titanium dioxide:** on 24 August, the Commission [initiated](#) an anti-absorption investigation.

UK Measures

- Boom lifts:** the Trade Remedies Authority [imposed](#) provisional anti-dumping measures on boom lifts from China.

Canadian Measures

- **Paperboard cups and containers:** on 17 August, the Canada Border Services Agency [initiated](#) dumping and subsidy investigations into paperboard cups and containers from China under the Special Import Measures Act.

US Measures

- **Plywood:** the International Trade Commission determined that hardwood and decorative plywood from China, Indonesia and Vietnam injure domestic producers; Commerce will issue antidumping and countervailing duty orders.
- **Aluminium extrusions:** Commerce [determined](#) that 18 companies under review of the antidumping order on aluminium extrusions from China are not eligible for a separate rate and form part of the China-wide entity.
- **Steel concrete reinforcing bar:** the ITC found US industry materially injured by imports from Bulgaria, Egypt and Vietnam; Commerce will issue antidumping orders on all three and countervailing duty orders on Egypt and Vietnam.
- **Van-type trailers:** Commerce found van-type trailers and subassemblies from China dumped at a 130.86% margin with a 134.75% subsidy rate.

Indian Measures

- **Thermal paper:** on 21 August, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies [initiated](#) an anti-dumping investigation into thermal paper from the US, China and South Korea.

Madagascar Measures

- **Paper products:** on 28 August, Madagascar [notified](#) the WTO Committee on Safeguards of a safeguard investigation, initiated 13 August, into self-adhesive labels, packaging and other printed paper, cardboard, plastic and textile items.

Clarification

Japan: Machine-Tool Export Controls

- The 20 August 2026 ICC Global Trade Update reported that from 16 August 2026, Japan was enforcing revised export controls applying case-by-case licensing to five-axis CNC machine tools, high-precision rotary tables, linear encoders and related design technology. Following comments from METI relayed through ICC Japan, that characterisation is corrected below.
- The measure promulgated on 16 June 2026 and in force from 16 August 2026 amended the prior-reporting requirements under Article 10, paragraph 3 of the Ministerial Ordinance on Trade-Related and Non-Trade Transactions, made under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. It added five technologies to those subject to important control under the Public-Private Dialogue Scheme for Technology Management. METI confirms that machine tools were not among the additions, and that no amendment introducing controls on machine tools took effect on 16 August. Details of the added technologies are set out on the METI [scheme page](#), and amendments to list-based controls under the Act are notified separately on its [advance-notice page](#). ICC is grateful to ICC Japan and METI for the clarification.

ICC News & Publications

- **News:** [How do we scale innovation in plastics alternatives?](#) (19 August 2026)
- **Report:** [Prolonged Hormuz shock could push cereal prices up by more than 80%](#) (18 August 2026)

What We're Reading

- **From the National Bureau of Economic Research:** [Tariffs, Investment and the Missing Trade Collapse.](#)
- **From the Congressional Research Service:** [Section 301 and China: Mature-Node Semiconductors.](#)
- **From the US International Trade Commission:** [Effects on the US Economy of Revoking China Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status.](#)
- **From the Canadian-American Business Council:** [Economic Impacts of US-Canada Tariff Escalation Under the USMCA.](#)
- **From the World Bank:** [Integrating Africa: From Threads to Hubs.](#)
- **From the UK Government:** [Import Trends Monitor.](#)
- **From The Economist:** [Flexibility amid fragmentation.](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

VALERIE PICARD, HEAD OF TRADE
CATHERINE MUSGRAVE, LEAD – TRADE
tradecustoms@iccwbo.org