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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION

NOTICE 3804 OF 2026

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

INVESTIGATION FOR REMEDIAL ACTION IN THE FORM OF A SAFEGUARD MEASURE AGAINST THE INCREASED IMPORTS OF FLAT-ROLLED PRODUCTS OF IRON OR NON-ALLOY STEEL, OF A WIDTH OF 600 MM OR MORE, CLAD, PLATED OR COATED, WITH ALUMINIUM-ZINC ALLOYS, OF A THICKNESS OF 0.45MM OR MORE, CLASSIFIABLE IN TARIFF SUBHEADINGS 7210.61.40 AND 7210.61.90 AND FLAT-ROLLED PRODUCTS OF NON-ALLOY OR OTHER ALLOY STEEL, OF A WIDTH OF 600 MM OR MORE, OTHERWISE PLATED OR COATED WITH ZINC, OF A THICKNESS OF 0.45MM OR MORE, CLASSIFIABLE IN TARIFF SUBHEADINGS 7210.49.40, 7210.49.50, 7210.49.90, 7225.92.45, 7225.92.55 AND 7225.92.90 ("CORROSION RESISTANT STEEL THICK GAUGE")

On 25 July 2025, the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa ("the Commission") initiated an investigation for remedial action in the form of a safeguard measure against the increased imports of corrosion resistant thick steel coil ("the subject product") through Notice No. 3389 in *Government Gazette* No. 53038. (the "Initiation Notice").

THE APPLICANT

ArcelorMittal South Africa Limited ("the Applicant" or "AMSA"), the major producer of the subject product in the Southern African Customs Union ("SACU") lodged the application on behalf of the SACU Industry, supported by SAFAL Steel Pty (Ltd), a manufacturer of the subject product.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT PRODUCT UNDER INVESTIGATION

The subject product is described as flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated, with aluminium-zinc alloys, of a thickness of 0.45mm or more, classifiable in tariff subheadings 7210.61.40 and 7210.61.90 and flat-rolled products of non-alloy or other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, otherwise

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plated or coated with zinc, of a thickness of 0.45mm or more, classifiable in tariff subheadings 7210.49.40, 7210.49.50, 7210.49.90, 7225.92.45, 7225.92.55 and 7225.92.90 ("corrosion resistant steel coil" or "the subject product").

DESCRIPTION OF THE LIKE OR DIRECTLY COMPETITIVE SACU PRODUCT

The SACU product is described as flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated, with aluminium-zinc alloys, of a thickness of 0.45mm or more, classifiable in tariff subheadings 7210.61.40 and 7210.61.90 and flat-rolled products of non-alloy or other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, otherwise plated or coated with zinc, of a thickness of 0.45mm or more, classifiable in tariff subheadings 7210.49.40, 7210.49.50, 7210.49.90, 7225.92.45, 7225.92.55 and 7225.92.90.

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

The Commission made a preliminary determination that the events cited can be regarded as unforeseen developments and these unforeseen developments and the effect of the obligations incurred under the GATT 1994 led to the increased volume of imports in absolute and relative terms and that the surge in the volume of imports is recent, sharp, significant, and sudden enough. The Commission also made a preliminary determination that the SACU industry is experiencing serious injury; and there is a causal link between the serious injury experienced by the SACU Industry and the surge in volumes of imports resulting from the unforeseen developments. The Commission considered that although the SACU Industry is experiencing injury, there are no critical circumstances that justify the imposition of provisional measures. The Commission, therefore, decided to not request the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to impose provisional measures whilst the investigation continues.

PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK

This investigation is conducted in accordance with the International Trade Administration Act, 2002 ("ITA Act") and the International Trade Administration Commission Safeguard

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Regulations ("SGR"), read with the World Trade Organization Agreement on Safeguards ("the Safeguard Agreement").

PROCEDURES AND TIME LIMIT

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on whether it will be in the public interest to impose definitive safeguard measures on the subject product, in accordance with Regulation 20.2 of the SGR.

A public hearing is scheduled for 19 March 2026 virtually on Ms Teams. All interested parties who wish to attend the public hearing and wish to make oral representations to the Commission on public interest, should indicate their intention to attend on or before 06 March 2026 at 15h00 to the Senior Manager: Trade Remedies I.

All interested parties who wish to address the Commission on public interest should submit a detailed version, including a non-confidential version, of the information to be discussed at the public hearing, in writing to the Senior Manager: Trade Remedies I on or before 13 March 2026 at 15h00. A party that did not timeously submit a non-confidential version of the information to be discussed at the public hearing will not be allowed to take part in the public hearing.

Parties requesting to attend public interest hearing should note that this will be an open hearing with all parties present and only non-confidential information should be presented during the hearing. As indicated, parties are at liberty to submit a confidential version of the information in writing to the Commission on or before 13 March 2026.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Please note that if any information is considered to be confidential then a non-confidential version of the information must be submitted for the public file, simultaneously with the

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confidential version. In submitting a non-confidential version, the following rules are strictly applicable and parties must indicate:

- where confidential information has been omitted and the nature of such information;
- reasons for such confidentiality;
- a summary of the confidential information which permits a reasonable understanding of the substance of the confidential information; and
- in exceptional cases, where information is not susceptible to summary, a sworn affidavit setting out the reasons why it is impossible to comply should be provided.

A sworn affidavit is defined as a written sworn statement of fact voluntarily made by an affiant or deponent under an oath or affirmation administered by a person authorized to do so by law. Such statement is witnessed as to the authenticity of the affiant's signature by a taker of oaths, such as a notary public or commissioner of oaths. An affidavit is a type of verified statement or showing, or in other words, it contains verification, meaning it is under oath or penalty of perjury and this serves as evidence to its veracity and is required for court proceedings.

This rule applies to all parties and to all correspondence with, and submissions to, the Commission, which unless indicated to be confidential and filed together with a non-confidential version, will be placed on the public file and be made available to other interested parties.

If a party considers that any document of another party, on which that party is submitting representations, does not comply with the above rules and that such deficiency affects that party’s ability to make meaningful representations, the details of the deficiency and the reasons why that party’s rights are so affected must be submitted to the Commission in writing forthwith (and at the latest 14 days prior to the date on which that party’s submission is due). Failure to do so timeously will seriously hamper the proper administration of the investigation, and such party will not be able to subsequently claim an inability to make

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meaningful representations on the basis of the failure of such other party to meet the requirements.

Subsection 33(1) of the ITA Act provides that any person claiming confidentiality of information should identify whether such information is confidential by nature or is otherwise confidential and, any such claims must be supported by a written statement, in each case, setting out how the information satisfies the requirements of the claim to confidentiality. In the alternative, a sworn statement should be made setting out reasons why it is impossible to comply with these requirements.

Regulation 2.3 of the SGR provides as follows:

"The following list indicates "information that is by nature confidential" as per section 33(1)(a) of the Main Act, read with section 36 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (Act 2 of 2000):

(a) management accounts;
(b) financial accounts of a private company;
(c) actual and individual sales prices;
(d) actual costs, including cost of production and importation cost;
(e) actual sales volumes;
(f) individual sales prices;
(g) information, the release of which could have serious consequences for the person that provided such information; and
(h) information that would be of significant competitive advantage to a competitor;

Provided that a party submitting such information indicates it to be confidential."

ADDRESS

Any information regarding this matter must be submitted in writing to the following address:

Physical address
Senior Manager: Trade Remedies I

Postal address
Senior Manager: Trade Remedies I

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Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Busman Makakola at BMakakola@itac.org.za and Ms. Emmanuel Manamela at email address EManamela@itac.org.za.

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