



Government of India Issues Final Notification Imposing Safeguard Duty on Steel Flat Product Imports

The Ministry of Finance has issued Notification No. 02/2025Customs (SG) dated 30 December 2025, formally imposing a safeguard duty on the import of non-alloy and alloy steel flat products into India. This action follows the final findings of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which determined that imports of these steel products had recently risen in a sudden, sharp, and significant manner, threatening to cause serious injury to the domestic steel industry. The DGTR's investigation, initiated under Notification No. 22/01/2024DGTR, concluded that the surge in imports had disrupted market stability and created conditions adverse to Indian producers. The government had earlier imposed a provisional safeguard duty for a period of 200 days, beginning 21 April 2025, and the newly issued notification transitions this measure into a definitive multi-year safeguard duty.

According to the notification, the safeguard duty applies to a wide range of steel flat products classified under tariff headings 7208, 7209, 7210, 7211, 7212, 7225, and 7226 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. These include hot-rolled coils, sheets, and plates; hot-rolled plate mill plates; cold-rolled coils and sheets; metallic-coated steel coils and sheets; and colour-coated coils and sheets. The duty will be implemented in a phased manner across three years, commencing from the date the provisional safeguard duty was first imposed. The applicable rate is twelve percent ad valorem from 21 April 2025 to 20 April 2026, followed by eleven and a half percent for the second year, and eleven percent for the third year, concluding on 20 April 2028. The government has also clarified that safeguard duty will not apply for the brief period between the expiry of the provisional duty and the publication of the present notification.

To ensure fair trade conditions, the notification specifies minimum import price thresholds on a Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) basis for each category of steel products. Imports priced at or above these thresholds will not attract safeguard duty. The prescribed import prices for the major product categories range from USD 675 per metric tonne for hot rolled coils, sheets and plates to USD 964 per metric tonne for colour coated coils and sheets. The purpose of this condition is to prevent low-priced imports from disrupting the domestic market while allowing competitively priced goods to continue entering the country without additional duty. The rates of exchange for calculating the safeguard duty will align with those notified under Section 14 of the Customs Act, with the relevant date being the presentation of the bill of entry.

The notification also outlines specific exemptions based on the country of origin. Steel flat products imported from developing countries listed under Notification No. 19/2016Customs (N.T.) are exempt from safeguard duty, except in cases where the imports originate from China PR, Vietnam, or Nepal, depending on the specific product category.



Source: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/content-page/explore-notification>

