



27 March 2026

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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT  
ON SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION  
AND THE REASONS FOR IT**

EUROPEAN UNION

*Grain-oriented electrical steel*

The following communication, dated and received on 27 March 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

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Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards ('Safeguards Agreement'), the European Union notifies that a safeguard investigation has been initiated as follows:

**1. Specify the date when the investigation was initiated**

27 March 2026

The European Commission ('the Commission') initiated the investigation on 27 March 2026.

The Notice of Initiation of the investigation has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union.<sup>1</sup>

If the Commission determines that the conditions to impose definitive measures are met, the Commission shall take the necessary decisions no later than nine months from the date of initiation, unless exceptional circumstances exist, in which case that time limit may be extended by no more than two months. If the time limit is extended, the Commission will publish a Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union setting forth the duration of the extension and a summary of the reasons. Nevertheless, in case of critical circumstances, where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair, the Commission may also decide to impose provisional measures pursuant to Article 6 of the Safeguards Agreement.

**2. Provide the precise description of the product involved**

Grain-oriented electrical steel

The product subject to this investigation consists of (1) certain grain-oriented flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel ('GOES'), and (2) steel laminations and cores, whether or not stacked or wound ('SLC'), for transformers and inductors. GOES currently fall under CN codes 7225 11 00 and 7226 11 00. SLCs currently fall under CN code 8504 90 13.

HS code(s) : 722511, 722611, 850490

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C, C/2026/1848, 27.3.2026. A copy of the Notice Initiation has also been submitted electronically. To consult it, please contact Ms Anne Richards of the Rules Division ([anne.richards@wto.org](mailto:anne.richards@wto.org)).

**3. Provide the reasons for the initiation of investigation**

The Commission has received a request to initiate a safeguard investigation. The analysis of the information provided in the request indicates that total imports of GOES and SLCs increased from 91 362 tonnes and 33 163 tonnes respectively in 2021 to 191 056 tonnes and 60 334 tonnes respectively in the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. In other words, GOES and SLC imports increased by 109% and 82% respectively in that period. The increase in imports appears to be the result of unforeseen developments such as increased production capacity in third countries and the ensuing risk of further increased imports on the Union market. With regard to GOES, the estimated existing spare capacity of about 630 000 tonnes worldwide exceeds Union consumption by 64% and is likely to cause further injury to the Union industry, even if only part of it is redirected to the Union market. In addition, access to many markets is being closed as a result of trade defence measures adopted by a number of third countries in recent years.

There is also sufficient evidence showing that the volumes of these imports have caused or are threatening to cause significant overall impairment of the position of the Union industry, based on the economic indicators specified in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 and Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2015/755. In particular, this evidence shows that imports of the product concerned have had, among other consequences, a negative impact on the market share of the Union producers. This has put significant pressure on the Union industry's sales volumes, resulting in a negative or a low level of profit. The Union industry remains vulnerable to a further increase in imports, which is, in particular given the overall overcapacity in the global market, likely to be imminent. The investigation will examine the situation of the Union industry, also based on the most recent developments, such as any trade diversion resulting from the closure of third country markets due to trade defence measures.

**4. Provide a point of contact for the investigation and identify the preferred means for corresponding**

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission  
Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security  
Directorate G, Unit G5  
Office: CHAR 03/66  
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel  
BELGIQUE/BELGIË  
E-mail address: [TRADE-SAFEGUARD-GOES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:TRADE-SAFEGUARD-GOES@ec.europa.eu)

**5. Deadlines and procedures to present evidence and views by interested parties**

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission has published questionnaires, available at the website of the Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security.<sup>2</sup> The completed questionnaires must reach the Commission within 21 days from the date of initiation.

All interested parties are invited to make known their views in writing, submit information and to provide supporting evidence. Representations in a free format should be submitted within 21 days from the date of initiation. Interested parties may make themselves known by contacting the Commission, preferably by e-mail, immediately but no later than 15 days after the date of initiation. Any submission of views and information after the above deadlines may be disregarded.

All interested parties may also apply to be heard by the Commission within 21 days of the day of initiation. All written submissions in the investigation should be filed with the Commission as set out in the Notice of Initiation.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://tron.trade.ec.europa.eu/investigations/ongoing>