



## Safeguard Duty Now Imposed on Turkish Hot-Rolled Steel Flat Products

A safeguard measure to prevent a sudden surge in imports allows countries to protect their domestic industries against serious damage caused or threatened by such increase. In 2008, Thailand implemented the Safeguard Measure Act B.E. 2550 (2007) on imports that are deemed by the Committee on Safeguard Measures to pose a serious threat to the country's industries. However, the Act makes an exception for imports from developing countries that do not exceed 3% of total imports of the product. Turkey is among those countries exempted in the past for its imports of steel flat products.

However, there have been recent developments in the safeguard measure of these products. More specifically, in the new Committee on Safeguard Measures Notification on the Definitive Safeguard Measures against Increased Imports of Hot Rolled Steel Flat Products with Certain Amounts of Alloying Elements such as Boron, Chromium, etc., in Coils and Not in Coils (No. 5), B.E. 2557 (2014), dated 15 October 2014, several amendments have been made to the prior Notification B.E. 2556 (2013) dated 12 September 2013.

Previously, the Committee on Safeguard Measures Notification B.E. 2556 (2013) dated 12 September 2013 stated that the safeguard duties were to be imposed on imports of products with a thickness of 0.9 - 50.0 mm. and a width of 100.0 – 3,048.0 mm. and that such duties would not be applied to imports of the products originating in or being exported from certain developing countries as specified in Annex II of the Notification. However, the latest Notification (No.5) dated 15 October 2014 has reached the following resolutions:

- 1) Imports of the products originating from the Republic of Turkey constituting more than 3% of the total imports shall not be exempted from the safeguard measures under Section 32 of the Safeguard Measure Act B.E. 2550 (2007).
- 2) The list of importers of hot rolled steel flat products with certain amounts of alloying elements such as boron, chromium, etc. in coils and not in coils exempted from the imposition of safeguard duties shall be amended.

Notification (No. 5) came into effect on the day after it was announced in the Royal Gazette on 24 October 2014. It also removed the Republic of Turkey from the list of developing countries exempted from the imposition of safeguard duties in Annex I of the Notification B.E. 2556 (2013) dated 12 September 2013, and imposed safeguard duties on the Republic of Turkey based on No.3 of the Notification B.E. 2556 (2013) dated 12 September 2013. The aforementioned safeguard duties are classified as follows:

- 1) If importing the products from 15 September 2013 – 26 February 2014, the safeguard duty shall be 44.20% of the C.I.F. price.
- 2) If importing the products from 27 February 2014 – 26 February 2015, the safeguard duty shall be 43.57% of the C.I.F. price.
- 3) If importing the products from 27 February 2015 – 26 February 2016, the safeguard duty shall be 42.95% of the C.I.F. price.

In addition, the aforementioned Notification (No.5) removed Annex II and Annex III of the Notification B.E. 2556 (2013) dated 12 September 2013 which was revised by the Committee on Safeguard Measures Notification (No. 4), B.E. 2557 (2014), dated 5 August 2014, and replaces these with Annex II and Annex III of Notification (No.5) instead.

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