

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 975

AN ACT

To provide for a reduction in the volume of steel imports, and to establish a steel import notification and monitoring program.

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and to establish a steel import notification and monitoring program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN VOLUME OF STEEL IMPORTS.**

2 (a) REDUCTION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3 sion of law, within 60 days after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act, the President shall take the necessary steps,
5 by imposing quotas, tariff surcharges, negotiated enforce-
6 able voluntary export restraint agreements, or otherwise,
7 to ensure that the volume of steel products imported into
8 the United States during any month does not exceed the
9 average volume of steel products that was imported
10 monthly into the United States during the 36-month pe-
11 riod preceding July 1997.

12 (b) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—Within 60 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 of the Treasury, through the United States Customs Serv-
15 ice, and the Secretary of Commerce shall implement a pro-
16 gram for administering and enforcing the restraints on
17 imports under subsection (a). The Customs Service is au-
18 thorized to refuse entry into the customs territory of the
19 United States of any steel products that exceed the allow-
20 able levels of imports of such products.

21 (c) APPLICABILITY.—

22 (1) CATEGORIES.—This section shall apply to
23 the following categories of steel products: semi-
24 finished, plates, sheets and strips, wire rods, wire
25 and wire products, rail type products, bars, struc-

1 tural shapes and units, pipes and tubes, iron ore,
2 and coke products.

3 (2) VOLUME.—Volume of steel products for
4 purposes of this section shall be determined on the
5 basis of tonnage of such products.

6 (d) EXPIRATION.—This section shall expire at the
7 end of the 3-year period beginning 60 days after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 2. STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION AND MONITORING**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Com-
13 merce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury,
14 shall establish and implement a steel import notification
15 and monitoring program. The program shall include a re-
16 quirement that any person importing a product classified
17 under chapter 72 or 73 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule
18 of the United States obtain an import notification certifi-
19 cate before such products are entered into the United
20 States.

21 (b) STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION CERTIFICATES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to obtain a steel
23 import notification certificate, an importer shall sub-
24 mit to the Secretary of Commerce an application
25 containing—

- 1 (A) the importer's name and address;
- 2 (B) the name and address of the supplier
- 3 of the goods to be imported;
- 4 (C) the name and address of the producer
- 5 of the goods to be imported;
- 6 (D) the country of origin of the goods;
- 7 (E) the country from which the goods are
- 8 to be imported;
- 9 (F) the United States Customs port of
- 10 entry where the goods will be entered;
- 11 (G) the expected date of entry of the goods
- 12 into the United States;
- 13 (H) a description of the goods, including
- 14 the classification of such goods under the Har-
- 15 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States;
- 16 (I) the quantity (in kilograms and net
- 17 tons) of the goods to be imported;
- 18 (J) the cost insurance freight (CIF) and
- 19 free alongside ship (FAS) values of the goods to
- 20 be entered;
- 21 (K) whether the goods are being entered
- 22 for consumption or for entry into a bonded
- 23 warehouse or foreign trade zone;

1 (L) a certification that the information
2 furnished in the certificate application is cor-
3 rect; and

4 (M) any other information the Secretary of
5 Commerce determines to be necessary and ap-
6 propriate.

7 (2) ENTRY INTO CUSTOMS TERRITORY.—In the
8 case of merchandise classified under chapter 72 or
9 73 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United
10 States that is initially entered into a bonded ware-
11 house or foreign trade zone, a steel import notifica-
12 tion certificate shall be required before the merchan-
13 dise is entered into the customs territory of the
14 United States.

15 (3) ISSUANCE OF STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION
16 CERTIFICATE.—The Secretary of Commerce shall
17 issue a steel import notification certificate to any
18 person who files an application that meets the re-
19 quirements of this section. Such certificate shall be
20 valid for a period of 30 days from the date of
21 issuance.

22 (c) STATISTICAL INFORMATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
24 shall compile and publish on a weekly basis informa-
25 tion described in paragraph (2).

1 (2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Information
2 described in this paragraph means information ob-
3 tained from steel import notification certificate ap-
4 plications concerning steel imported into the United
5 States and includes with respect to such imports the
6 Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States
7 classification (to the tenth digit), the country of ori-
8 gin, the port of entry, quantity, value of steel im-
9 ported, and whether the imports are entered for con-
10 sumption or are entered into a bonded warehouse or
11 foreign trade zone. Such information shall also be
12 compiled in aggregate form and made publicly avail-
13 able by the Secretary of Commerce on a weekly basis
14 by public posting through an Internet website. The
15 information provided under this section shall be in
16 addition to any information otherwise required by
17 law.

18 (d) FEES.—The Secretary of Commerce may pre-
19 scribe reasonable fees and charges to defray the costs of
20 carrying out the provisions of this section, including a fee
21 for issuing a certificate under this section.

22 (e) SINGLE PRODUCER AND EXPORTER COUN-
23 TRIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
24 Secretary of Commerce shall make publicly available all
25 information required to be released pursuant to subsection

1 (c), including information obtained regarding imports
2 from a foreign producer or exporter that is the only pro-
3 ducer or exporter of goods subject to this section from a
4 foreign country.

5 (f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Commerce may
6 prescribe such rules and regulations relating to the steel
7 import notification and monitoring program as may be
8 necessary to carry the provisions of this section.

Passed the House of Representatives March 17,
1999.

Attest:

Clerk.