

CLIENT ALERTS

New 4th Tranche of Tariffs on China Imports of \$300 Billion under Consideration – Request for Comments by United States Trade Representative

5.14.2019

Butzel first reported the Trump Administration's decision to increase existing tariffs on \$200 Billion worth of Chinese imports in our Client Alert of May 6th. The alert explains that tariffs on products covered by List 3 of the Section 301 tariffs were to increase from 10 to 25%. This increase took effect on May 10th. The Trump Administration has now issued a request for comments on a new list of proposed tariffs which is scheduled to appear in the May 15th Federal Register. This proposed List 4 identifies possible tariffs on an additional \$300 Billion worth of Chinese products imported into the US.

The list is not focused on traditional auto parts, as most imported auto parts from China are already covered by Lists 1–3 of the Section 301 tariffs. Instead, the new list covers nearly all remaining Chinese imports. The request for comments lays out a process for comments and objections to the proposed tariffs, sets a hearing date for June 17th, and a deadline to request to testify as June 10th. Written comments can be submitted until June 24th.

This proposed List 4 is apparently a response to China's recent announcement that it plans to raise tariffs on U.S. importers. China's retaliatory tariffs will be imposed at the following levels:

- 25% tariffs on 2,493 items from current 10%
- 20% tariffs on 1,078 items from current 10%
- 10% tariffs on 974 items from current 5%
- 5% tariffs to continue on 595 items. Auto parts, which were initially on the list but have been exempted since December, are still excluded.

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Catherine M. Karol
Of Counsel

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The proposed List 4 of Section 301 tariffs escalates the trade war with China – a ‘war’ the Trump Administration believes it can win. Butzel Long has worked with clients to submit comments and exclusion requests for Section 301 and 232 tariffs. We are able to assist any clients that have questions regarding these updates or who wish to file comments (or to testify) about the proposed List 4 of the Section 301 tariffs.

Leslie Alan Glick

202.454.2839

glick@butzel.com

Catherine Karol

313.225.5308

karol@butzel.com

Mitch Zajac

313.225.7059

zajac@butzel.com

Raul Rangel Miguel

202.454.2841

rangel@butzel.com

He Xian

517.372.4449

xian@butzel.com