



Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World

Certain Chinese Steel Fasteners Subject to Import Registration in the EU Since 06/17

The customs authorities of all EU member states are hereby directed, under Article 14(5) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036, to take the appropriate steps to register imports of certain fasteners of iron or steel, other than of stainless steel, i.e. wood screws (excluding coach screws), self-tapping screws, other screws and bolts with heads (whether or not with their nuts or washers, but excluding screws and bolts for fixing railway track construction material), and washers, so that measures may be applied against those imports retroactively from the date of such registration, provided all conditions set out in the basic Regulation are met.

These products are currently falling under CN codes 73181290, 73181491, 73181499, 73181558, 73181568, 73181582, 73181588, ex 73181595 (TARIC codes 7318159519 and 7318159589), ex 73182100 (TARIC codes 7318210031, 7318210039, 7318210095 and 7318210098) and ex 73182200 (TARIC codes 7318220031, 7318220039, 7318220095 and 7318220098) and are originating in the People's Republic of China.

Registration shall expire nine months following the date of entry into force of this Regulation. All interested parties are invited to make their views known in writing, to provide supporting evidence or to request to be heard within 21 days from the date of publication of this Regulation. This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.



Russia to Impose 15% Provisional Export Tariffs on Certain Metals

The Government of Russian Federation has recently announced that it will impose the export tariffs of at least 15% each on steel, nickel, aluminum, and copper starting from Aug. 1st, 2021 and this measure will officially come into effect through the end of this year. According to the measure, copper will be subject to a tariff rate of US\$1,226 per ton; nickel will be subject to a tariff rate of US\$2,321 per ton; aluminum will be subject to a tariff rate of US\$254 per ton; however, rates for steel products differ from each other, and in the “hot rolled steel” category, it will be at least US\$115 per ton.

The measure is aimed at protecting national defense and construction industries in Russia from the impact of hiking material costs. As the aluminum output of United Co Rusal International represents around 10% of the global total and the nickel output of Norilsk Nickel represents around 20% of the global total, and Russia itself is also the world's 3rd largest steel exporter (mainly shipping to Europe), it is expected that such a measure will cause a significant impact on the global metal supply market.

Some analysts also estimated that, since several consumers in Taiwan and Asian countries import steel scrap, semi-finished steel billets, and hot rolled steel from Russia, plus the recent plunge of China's export, the capacity to supply Asian market may become tighter.

USITC Makes Determinations in Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews Concerning Steel Nails from Korea, Malaysia, Oman, Taiwan, and Vietnam

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) determined that revoking the existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imports of steel nails from Korea, Malaysia, Oman, Taiwan, and Vietnam would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.



As a result of the Commission's affirmative determinations, the existing orders on imports of this product from Korea, Malaysia, Oman, Taiwan, and Vietnam will remain in place.

Chair Jason E. Kearns, Vice Chair Randolph J. Stayin, and Commissioners David S. Johanson, Rhonda K. Schmidlein, and Amy A. Karpel voted in the affirmative.

Today's action comes under the five-year (sunset) review process required by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

The Commission's public report Steel Nails from Korea, Malaysia, Oman, Taiwan, and Vietnam (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-521 and 731-TA-1252-1255 and 1257 (Review), USITC Publication 5200, May 2021) will contain the views of the Commission and information developed during the reviews.

The report has been available on June 18, 2021 and can be accessed on the USITC website at: https://www.usitc.gov/commission_publications_library.





Vietnam Steel Export to EU up 5 Folds in First 5 Months of 2021

According to the data of Vietnamese Customs, Vietnam's steel export reached 980 thousand tons at an export value of USD 833 million this May, down 4% in volume and up 8.2% in value from this April. The total export volume reached 4.88 million tons in the first 5 months of 2021 at a total export value of USD 3.61 billion, up 61.6% in volume and up 117% in value from the same period last year. The EU, China, Cambodia, Malaysia and Mexico are the top 5 destinations for Vietnamese steel products. In the first 5 months of 2021, Vietnam grew 500% (at 713 thousand tons) in steel export to the EU, 200% to China (at 1.1 million tons), and 250% to Mexico (at 293 thousand tons).

The significant growth in Vietnam's steel export to the EU could be attributed to the European Union-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA). This also means that Vietnamese companies have acquired standardized production lines and are capable of meeting the stringent requirements and demand by the countries they export to.



Taiwan CSC Increases Q3 2021 Domestic Prices by 4.1% on Average

Taiwan CSC held a domestic price adjustment meeting for the third quarter of 2021 on June 15th and made the following price adjustments for fastener related products. The price of wire rod is up NTD 2,200 per ton and the price of automotive materials is up NTD 2,900 per ton.

China Launches AD Sunset Review on EU and UK Iron and Steel Fasteners

On April 28, 2021, Ministry of Commerce of PR China received the application from the Fastener Subdivision of China General Machine Components Industry Association (CMCA) on behalf of Chinese iron and steel fastener industry for a 5-year sunset review on the antidumping measure against certain iron and steel fasteners originating in the EU and UK. CMCA alleged that if the antidumping measure is terminated, the dumping of certain iron and steel fasteners originating in the EU and UK may continue and may continuously lead to the material injury to local Chinese industries. As a result, CMCA made a request that Ministry of Commerce should launch a sunset review investigation and maintain the antidumping measure.

Ministry of Commerce has determined to launch the sunset review investigation against certain iron and steel fasteners originating in the EU and UK since June 29, 2021. During the investigation, the previously announced antidumping rates and products involved will remain effective (note: The current AD rates for certain iron and steel fasteners imported from the EU and UK are between 6.1 % and 26.0%. However, Koninklijke Nedschroef Holding B.V. and its affiliated companies are subject to a rate of 5.5%). The investigation period for antidumping is from 2020/01/01 through 2020/12/31, while the investigation period for material injury to the local industry is from 2016/01/01 through 2020/12/31.

Products involved in this investigation are: certain iron and steel fasteners, which include wood screws, self-tapping screws, screws and bolts (whether or not with their nuts or washers, but excluding screws and bolts with their shanks less than 6mm for fixing railway track), and washers. Products involved do not include nuts and other fasteners used for the maintenance and repair of commercial aircraft. The tariff codes of products involved are 73181200, 73181400, 73181590, 73181510, 73182100, and 73182200.

All interested parties are invited to register their participation in the sunset review through the Trade Remedy and Investigation Bureau of Ministry of Commerce of PR China within 20 days from the date of publication of this Notice. The investigation starts from June 29, 2021 and should come to an end before June 28, 2022.



MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA





Viterie Italia Centrale

TR Viterie Italia Centrale Successfully Passes IATF 16949 Audit

Stefano Pisoni, Managing Director, TR VIC commented: "I am pleased to report that Bureau Veritas audited TR VIC in April 2021, in accordance with the requirements of IATF 16949. The Bureau Veritas auditor certified that the Quality Management System of TR VIC has been found to be in accordance with the requirements of IATF 16949.

This was an intense 4-day audit, which involved detailed checks in all departments. The final report, issued by the auditor, declared only 2 minor non conformities. I am extremely proud of the way the whole team in TR VIC have performed, especially when we are already exceptionally busy meeting customers' increased demands."

Andrew Nuttall, European Managing Director, expressed his gratitude: "Knowing how very busy the manufacturing location is and that all employees are working incredibly hard, so to accommodate a 4-day audit was a big ask. But as usual they did not fail the task, and in fact exceeded our expectations."

Alexandre Planques Joins Avantus Aerospace as Sales Director EMEA

Avantus Aerospace is pleased to announce the appointment of Alexandre Planques to the position of Sales Director EMEA, effective Monday, May 3rd, 2021. Alexandre is based in Toulouse, France.

Alexandre has 20 years of Aerospace Sales experience in the European market, most recently with NEXTEAM Group as Business Development and Project Director. Prior to NEXTEAM, Alexandre held positions at Safran and Collins (Ratier-Figeac).

Alexandre holds an Engineering degree from EIGSI La Rochelle.



AVANTUS AEROSPACE

Howmet Aerospace Uses Brand New Material for KEENSERTS® Solid Inserts

The material A286 is an austenitic iron-nickel-chromium alloy. It has a large temperature range from – 196°C up to 700°C and offers excellent strength and superiority to low-alloy steels or common stainless steels. Up to this temperature, A286 displays exceptional corrosion properties.

Typical applications A286 is suitable for:

- Parts for gas turbines in aviation and power plant construction
- Thermal process engineering
- Automotive industry
- Aerospace fasteners
- Non-magnetic cryogenic equipment



PennEngineering®

Announces Multimillion Digital Transformation at Galway Facility

PennEngineering, a global leader in innovative fastening technologies and solutions, has announced a major digital transformation of its Galway facility. This multimillion-euro investment will involve the upskilling of all 200 staff based in Galway and will create approximately 20 new roles over the next three years.

This project is supported by the Irish Government through IDA Ireland.

PennEngineering's Galway facility has reached a significant milestone this year, as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since 2001 the team has grown from 80 staff to 200. In 2017 the company announced the development of a new, 80,000ft² facility in Galway, transforming the site into a centre of excellence within the global organisation, expanding PennEngineering's R&D capabilities and reinforcing its commitment to its European customers.

Mary Ann Fleming, President, PennEngineering® Fastening Technologies (Europe) Limited said:

"We are delighted with this support from IDA Ireland to allow us to expedite our Smart Manufacturing programme. Our Industry 4.0 strategy will allow us to escalate our product offerings to the European Market and remain competitive in a growing market for us."



BUMAX Selected by Global Construction Leader Skanska to Supply Fasteners for the Prestigious Slussen Project

Leading Swedish manufacturer of premium stainless steel fasteners BUMAX has been chosen to supply high strength and corrosion resistant fasteners to global construction giant Skanska for the high-profile Slussen infrastructure project in Stockholm, Sweden.

Skanska has ordered approximately 15,000 premium BUMAX fasteners for the Slussen infrastructure project in central Stockholm to be used on the new water lock's sluice hatches.

The Slussen area in central Stockholm is being redeveloped with new stainless steel sluice and flood gates – to help the region cope with the anticipated sea level rise in the coming century. It is a massive and essential nine-year SEK 15.8bn (USD 1.6bn; EUR 1.3bn) project in the heart of Stockholm, one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Sweden in recent decades. It includes road and rail infrastructure as well as rebuilding the lock and sluice system and is expected to be complete in 2025.

“BUMAX was able to provide us with stainless steel fasteners that fully met our high strength and excellent corrosion resistance requirements for the Slussen project,” said Bob Hamberg, Purchase Manager at Skanska Sweden.

Around 90 different types of BUMAX fasteners were ordered for the Slussen project. The largest of these fasteners were BUMAX SDX threaded rods M48x1225 and M36x1125, in class 80.

Due to the size and strength of these largest rods, BUMAX collaborated with RISE (the Research Institute of Sweden) to utilize specialist testing equipment, in order to test the mechanical strength of the fasteners. These tests showed that the rods could reach loads of 886kN (over 90 tons) prior to yield and 1,221kN (over 124 tons) on fracture.

“BUMAX premium fasteners are simply the best for extremely demanding projects like the Slussen project,” said Lars Holm, Managing Director, BUMAX. “We are obviously happy to be selected as a supplier by such a distinguished construction companies for such an essential infrastructure project, and we look forward to providing fasteners to many similar projects around the world in the coming years.”



Midwest Fastener Expanding Its Headquarters in Portage



Founded in 1966 and headquartered in Portage, Midwest Fastener Corp. is a leading manufacturer and distributor of nuts, bolts, anchors, deck and drywall screws and specialty fasteners. The company recently purchased Hy-Ko Products in Northfield, Ohio resulting in the need for Midwest Fastener to expand its office space and distribution operation. To secure the company's \$10.8 million investment in its headquarters and distribution center expansion in Portage and Decatur and creation of up to 90 jobs, the company has been awarded a \$500,000 Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant.

"Midwest Fastener Corp. has been blessed with continued growth and again needs to expand our Portage facility and staff to support our growing customer base. We are optimistic about the future and our commitment to the community of Portage is stronger than ever," said MFC President Andy DeVries. "Midwest sincerely appreciates the support received from the Michigan Business Development Program, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and the city of Portage in the creation of up to 90 new jobs in Portage and Decatur. Without this support, MFC could not have achieved these great successes."



New Official Authorized Distributor



Goebel Fasteners, Inc. Announces Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc. as Official Authorized Distributor

Goebel Fasteners, Inc. announces a new and exciting partnership with Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc. as an official authorized distributor for all products & tooling.

The two companies entered into an agreement that sees Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc. become an authorized distributor for Goebel Fasteners, Inc. product lines which consist of metric & American standard: Blind Rivets, Threaded Inserts, new G-Grip™ Stainless Lockbolt System, Self-Tapping/Drilling Screws, Sealing Washers, Drill Bits, Nut Drivers, Over-Center Toggle Latches, Hand & Power Tools, PPE Equipment, and many more innovative specialty products.

“Austin Hardware is an industry leader who provides engineered solutions for a variety of industrial applications. They help their supply partners get their products into the hands of industrial customers who are always working to keep their businesses productive and profitable. Austin Hardware is a great fit for our company’s vision and we are looking forward to working together for years to come.”, said Marcel Goebel, CEO of the Goebel Group.

Bill Stambaugh, President of Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc. was equally pleased stating. “Partnering with Goebel and distributing their innovative fastener solutions will help us provide our customers with new products that will help streamline their manufacturing processes. We believe that as a family owned and operated business we have an opportunity to invest in our people and our customers for the long term.”

Nitto Seiko's 2nd Indonesia Plant Now Offers Vertically Integrated Production

PT. NITTO ALAM INDONESIA starting with 30 employees was founded in 1985 with the total investment value of 700 million Rupiah. Its second plant inaugurated in Bekasi on August 2018 is dedicated to introducing automated production to provide automotive and other industry clients with high quality and shorter lead times. The so-called automated production system means that the plant has the equipment for heading, threading, heat treatment, electroplating, inspection and packaging. It took the plant 3 years to establish the vertically integrated production system, helping shorten the lead time by around 30%. The plant will target the Japanese manufacturing cluster in Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta, and provide them with screws, bolts, anchors and other special cold forged products.



春雨集團
CHUN YU GROUP

Expects to See Continuous Customers' Orders Through the End of 2021

The wire rod price adjustment for the third quarter of 2021 announced by Taiwan CSC is lower than what the market had expected, giving Chun Yu an upper edge in cost competitiveness and a boost in its revenue and profit gains. With the outlook of a gradual increase in the global fastener demand which is expected to peak before Christmas, the orders placed to Chun Yu are expected to continue through the fourth quarter of this year.

Chun Yu President Huei-Jeng Lin said that the strong post-COVID demand in the U.S., Europe and China as well as reshoring of many Taiwanese businesses helped drive up the steel demand. The second quarter of this year continues with a rise in both wire price and volume as well as a large amount of fastener and wire orders placed to Chun Yu's 3 major manufacturing bases in Taiwan, Indonesia, and China. The company's revenue set a new high in May at NTD 970 million.

Meanwhile, the leading industrial & automotive fastener supplier, Boltun, benefiting from the same cost competitiveness, also sees its manufacturing already scheduled through the fourth quarter of this year. Another wire rod supply giant, Tycoons, also expects to see continuous customers' orders through the fourth quarter of this year.





sheh fung
screws company

Sheh Fung Screws Looks to Raise Prices Again Due to Heightened Material Prices

Sheh Fung Screws grossed NTD 244 million in its consolidated revenue this May, up 71.86% from the last same period. The consolidated revenue for the first 5 months also reached NTD 1.22 billion. Both the single month and 5-month revenues set a new high over the previous corresponding periods.

Sheh Fung said that its primary clients' need for inventory replenishment and order placement remains strong because of the vibrant demand from U.S. home improvement and construction markets. Although some order shipments were postponed due to the "jam-packed" situation in major U.S. ports, Sheh Fung was still able to optimize its delivery schedules at its 3 plants in Taiwan to speed up delivery, thereby boosting its sales in the U.S. by 108.64% this May compared to the same period last year.

According to Sheh Fung, as the pandemic continues to affect capacities of the global fastener industry and as insufficient containers and delayed shipments affect lead times, fastener demand and supply remain unbalanced in the current U.S. home improvement and construction markets. The U.S. and Europe gradually loosening their lockdown measures will help grow the construction market demand further. Primary clients of Sheh Fung have had less inventory than before and continue to place more orders.

Sheh Fung said that the first wave of price increase as a result of the higher wire rod prices quoted by the upstream suppliers has begun to pay off, and that the company is currently in talks with clients to raise the price again.

Ta Chen's 2021 Revenue Likely to Peak Amid U.S. Market Recovery

The USD 6 trillion budget proposed by U.S. President Biden is expected to drive the infrastructure demand in the U.S. Ta Chen International (TCI) has been the beneficiary of the revival in American industrial steel demand since the beginning of this year, while looking to continue raising its product prices. TCI's revenue for Q2 2021 is expected to climb high again, and its full-year revenue stands a chance to reach a new high at NTD 85 billion with high profitability. TCI's EPS for the whole year is expected to land at NTD 3 to NTD 4, which signifies an obvious recovery from the deficit last year and an EPS record that is only second to NTD 5.83 back in 2018.

In terms of stainless steel business, TCI expects an obvious upturn in demand as opposed to last year, due to the slowdown in U.S. COVID pandemic and a revival in the American manufacturing and construction industries. TCI is a master distributor in the U.S. market and the prices of its stainless steel products are mostly based upon the LME nickel price, which has been hovering around USD 17.6 thousand since this May, up 44% from the same month last year.

In terms of fastener business, TCI has high hopes of growth in fastener sales and is set to raise the prices.

TCI turned losses into profits with an EPS of around NTD 0.39 in Q4 last year, though in 2020 its EPS went down to NTD -0.44. The strong market demand and price surge in the U.S. pushed TCI's profit in Q1 this year to land at NTD 0.88.



Association

Fastener Professional Award Nomination Deadline

The Fastener Hall of Fame recognizes professionals who have made significant and enduring contributions to the industrial fastener industry on a national or global scale. The Young Fastener Professional of the Year award recognizes and honors a young professional who has made significant contributions to the fastener industry. Nominate an exemplary member of the fastener industry by July 30, 2021 for review by the selection committee. Award recipients will be recognized at a special event during the International Fastener Expo (September 21-23, 2021) and receive a commemorative plaque. ■

