

Hardware World News



五金產業新聞

U.S. Department of Commerce Announces Three Affirmative Preliminary Circumvention Rulings on Exports of Steel Products from Vietnam

美國對自越南出口之源自韓國及台灣鋼鐵產品適用456.23%進口稅

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced three preliminary affirmative circumvention rulings involving exports of steel products from Vietnam. The circumvention rulings cover certain steel products that are first produced in Korea and Taiwan, which are then shipped to Vietnam for minor processing, and finally exported to the United States as corrosion-resistant steel products (CORE) and cold-rolled steel (CRS).

As a result of today's affirmative circumvention determinations, Commerce will instruct Customs and Border Protection to begin collecting cash deposits on imports of corrosion-resistant steel products and cold-rolled steel produced in Vietnam using Korean- or Taiwanese-origin substrate. These duties will be imposed on future imports, and also on any unliquidated entries since August 2, 2018 (the date on which Commerce initiated these circumvention inquiries). The applicable cash deposit rates will be as high as 456.23 percent, depending on the origin of the substrate and the type of steel product exported to the United States.

U.S. law provides that Commerce may find circumvention of antidumping duty (AD) or countervailing duty (CVD) orders when merchandise that is the same class or kind as merchandise subject to existing orders is completed or assembled in a third country prior to importation into the United States.

Shipments of CORE from Vietnam to the United States increased from \$22 million (in the 40-month period of September 2012 until preliminary duties imposed on South Korean and Taiwanese products in December 2015) to \$933 million (40-month period from imposition of preliminary duties in January 2016 until April 2019), which is an increase of 4,076 percent. Additionally, shipments of CRS from Vietnam to the United States increased from \$49 million (in the 38-month period of January 2013 until preliminary duties imposed on South Korean and Taiwanese products in February 2016) to \$498 million (38-month period from imposition of preliminary duties in March 2016 until April 2019), which is an increase of 922 percent.

These inquiries were conducted pursuant to requests from U.S. domestic producers of CORE and CRS: Steel Dynamics, Inc. (IN), California Steel Industries (CA), AK Steel Corporation (OH), ArcelorMittal USA LLC (IN), Nucor Corporation (NC), and United States Steel Corporation (PA).

The strict enforcement of U.S. trade law is a primary focus on the Trump Administration. To date, the Trump Administration has issued 31 preliminary and/or final anti-circumvention determinations – this is a 417 percent increase from the number of preliminary and/or final circumvention determinations made during the comparable period in the previous administration.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Enforcement and Compliance unit within the International Trade Administration is responsible for vigorously enforcing U.S. trade law and does so through an impartial, transparent process that abides by international law and is based on factual evidence provided on the record.



Fastenal's Lower-Than-Expected H1 Revenues as the Negative Outcome of Tariff Battle

關稅成本衝擊惡果顯現，Fastenal上半年財報遜於預期

Fastenal, an industrial and construction materials distributor valued at USD 17 billion, reported lower-than-expected revenues and profits for the second quarter which underscores the impact of tariff costs and inflation caused by the U.S./China trade war. Fastenal is the largest industrial fastener distributor in North America. In a press release, Fastenal stated that it raised product price to mitigate the tariff of China's products, but that higher product pricing was not enough to mitigate the general inflation on the market.

Fastenal reported the second-quarter revenue at USD 1.37 billion which was lower than what analysts had expected. Peter Boockvar, Chief Investment Officer of Bleakley Advisory Group, said, "The global manufacturing sector is now



in contraction. Definitely more companies will sound alarms on China tariffs heading into this earnings season.”

In May 2019, the U.S. raised the tariff rate from 10% to 25% on USD 200 billion worth of China’s products, and China retaliated with a tariff on USD 60 billion worth of American products. Although the U.S. and China agreed on a truce in G20, a long-term trade protocol does not seem to be coming true anytime soon. According to Washington Post, China’s negotiation team has a few new members including China’s Commerce Minister Zhong Shan who is a hardliner in the eyes of White House officials. In the re-opened trade talk which is to come, the new development further undermines the hopes for China’s concession.

Trump said multiple times that the U.S. is imposing a tariff of billions of US dollars on China, but many economists and institutions, including the IMF, have pointed out that the American companies will pay the price. Research by IMF finds that the tariff on China’s products are almost absorbed by the American importers.

New Discovery from Japan on Dies Quality Inspection Implies Anyone Could Acquire the Sense of Touch of a Professional Dies Inspector

日本模具品質檢測新發現，超級職人的手感你也能得到

(Image courtesy of Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun, Japan)

The uneven damaged surface of dies would affect the superficial distribution of lubricants and the quality of the final product, and therefore we need skilled dies artisans to check the surface. Some of these artisans are exceptionally proficient who can detect a concave surface depth of 3µm with their fingers, and only the “super artisans” can be up to that sense level. Additionally, the aging population of Japan means that the country is in shortage of such dies artisans.



T. Takei, an assistant teacher of Hirosaki University, discovered in his research that an average dies artisan can have a chance to turn into a super artisan by means of a small object. If you put the teeth of a resin coiled

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zipper on a die, press your finger on the teeth and move the teeth along the surface of the die, you might find your finger's touch more sensitive to the subtle concave and convex parts of the surface. An experiment found that this method would increase 10 times of sense of touch to a concave surface depth of 80µm, and 2 times of that to a concave surface depth of 5µm. Even for those with no experience of training, they could detect a concave surface depth of 5µm on a die through this method. As soon as they get the hang of that touch, they can much more easily detect surface mars of a die without the aid of the coiled zipper teeth.

The width of the coiled zipper teeth can be up to 1-3mm, and whichever the width between that range has been confirmed to improve the sense of touch. This method has been filed for a patent. In the future, the methods of measurement will be integrated to robotize the inspection of dies surface.

Vietnam's Car Import Volume Hikes by 6 Times in H1 2019

2019上半年越南進口汽車量暴增6倍

According to the statistics of Vietnamese Customs, in the first 6 months of 2019, 75,437 units of cars were imported to Vietnam. This figure is around 6 times the record in the same period 2018. In terms of the import value, the figure also increased by at least 5 times, reaching USD 1.63 bn.

To view the data by car type, 5,427 units are vehicles for 9 or less passengers (increasing by 6 times from the same period 2018) and 17,879 units for trucks (also increasing by more than 6 times from the same period 2018).

If to calculate one single month in June 2019, 10,540 units (valued at USD around 0.254 bn) were imported to Vietnam (up 26.5% from the same month in 2018). Amongst the figure, 7,145 units (valued at USD 0.137 bn) are vehicles for 9 or less passengers, representing around 67.8% of its total car import. 2,731 units (valued at USD 77.10 million) are trucks. 654 units (valued at USD 40.30 million) are vehicles for special purposes.

In addition, in June 2019 Vietnam imported around USD 0.291 bn worth of auto parts, down 18.4% from the same period 2018. Its main auto parts import origins are South Korea, Japan, Thailand, China, Indonesia and Germany.

Thailand is the largest car import origin of Vietnam. In June 2019, Vietnam imported 7,575 units from Thailand, followed by Indonesia (1,468 units), China (653 units), S. Korea (274 units) and Japan (150 units). These 6 largest import origins represented 96% of the total car import of Vietnam in June 2019.

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Company Focus

MFCS & RIBE Announce Joint Venture



美國MFCS與德國RIBE合資成立高強度鋁扣件製造廠Aluform USA

Duncan MacLean, President and CEO of MacLean-Fogg announced the joint venture formation of Aluform USA between Richard Bergner Verbindungstechnik GmbH & Co. KG (RIBE®) of Schwabach, Germany and MacLean-Fogg Component Solutions (MFCS) of Mundelein, Illinois USA. The RIBE-Aluform® product is the market leader in the automotive industry for high strength aluminum bolt, screw and stud fasteners for lightweight, corrosion-sensitive automotive applications. Aluform USA combines RIBE® and MFCS strengths to bring the Aluform product line to the North American marketplace, with application engineering, customer support and manufacturing in the USA.

Duncan MacLean said, “RIBE® is a terrific, innovative fastener company. The RIBE-Aluform® product line sets the global standard for high-strength automotive aluminum

fasteners. Vehicle lightweighting will continue to be a major industry trend as OEMs work to improve fuel economy and battery range. We’re excited to further help our North American customers in their lightweight efforts by including Aluform high-strength aluminum bolts in our range of leading fastener solutions.”

Frank Bergner, Managing Partner of RIBE® said, “MacLean-Fogg has been well-known for 94 years as a leader in innovative fasteners and high-quality manufacturing. MacLean-Fogg’s excellent manufacturing capabilities, application engineering and high customer service make them an ideal partner to support and grow Aluform in North America.”

COPA TOOL Achieves AS9100D Status



Copa Tool is proud to have been awarded AS9100D accreditation status for our Quality Management system. AS 9100D is a prestigious quality management standard for the aviation, space, and defense industry. It recognizes Copa’s quality system for the manufacture and assembly of precision machined products, in management, process control and service, purchasing, and design of manufacturing processes.

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Hardware & Fastener Components - no.49/2020

Copa Tool manufactures products with “mission critical precision” to meet the high-quality needs of aerospace and defense companies. Our engineering and machining are reliable in the most demanding circumstances, and few companies can react as quickly and thoroughly to defense contractors’ requirements as Copa.



LISI Announces the Transfer of Its Activities Sheet Metal Primary Parts and Assembly (INDRAERO SIREN and LISI AEROSPACE CREUZET MOROCCO)

法國LISI集團宣布完成出售旗下主要板金零件和組裝事業INDRAERO SIREN及LISI AEROSPACE CREUZET MOROCCO

In line with the press release dated March 28, 2019, LISI AEROSPACE announces that it has definitively completed the sale of all the shares of its two subsidiaries, INDRAERO SIREN and LISI AEROSPACE CREUZET MAROC, whose main activities are sheet metal primary parts and assembly of aerostructures to a fund managed by QUANTUM CAPITAL PARTNERS.

QUANTUM CAPITAL PARTNERS aims to accelerate its development in aerospace by bringing together all its aerospace activities under the same brand Aviagroup Industries with the goal to generate operational synergies and targeting a critical size greater than € 100 million.

INDRAERO SIREN is located in Argenton sur Creuse and Déols where it employs 422 employees; LISI AEROSPACE CREUZET MAROC is based in Casablanca with 283 employees - the group achieved a turnover of 61 €M in 2018 based on significant positions at Airbus and Safran.

LISI AEROSPACE will consolidate its fasteners activities and continue to focus on complex primary parts derived from strategic technologies on which the group intends to develop, including forging, forming or extrusion.

Japanese Kobayashi Metals Limited to Change Its Company Name



日本小林産業株式會社將在2020年4月更名

Kobayashi Metals is a publicly traded fastener trader founded in

CNC Auto Lathe

Major Products: Fiber-optic Telecommunications Equipment, Hydraulic/Pneumatic Components, Shafts, Mechanic Components, Electronic Components, Wire-cutting, Housing, Computer Connectors, Auto/Motorcycle Parts, Radio Wave Launchers, Radio Frequency Generators

Materials: Phosphor Bronze, Aluminum, Copper Beryllium, Free Cutting Copper, Stainless Steel

SMA	BNG
SMB/SMC	TNC
MCX	1.0/2.3
MMCX	1.6/5.6
N	7/16

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August 1926, and headquartered in Osaka, where Japanese machinery and tool companies converge. In recent years it has expanded its product lines to include tools in addition to the fastener lineup. As a preparation for overseas sales deployment, the company is to change its name to “TORQ” by April 2020.

Japanese KTC to Tap into U.S./Europe with IoT-enabled Tools

日本KTC公司以物聯網化工具產品打入歐美市場

KTC is to tap into the U.S./Europe with IoT-enabled hand tools starting from spring 2020. It is doing a survey on multiple European tool makers, and has entered into contract negotiation with an American sales agent. IoT-enabled tools automate the management of operation records and increase the precision of records and efficiency of operations, with which KTC will promote its strengths and dig deep in the U.S. and Europe.

KTC is to put “TRASAS” tools with telecommunication capability and “nepros” tools used for car repair into the American and European markets. KTC thinks safety awareness on maintenance shops is increasing in Germany and Italy, and therefore tools which automatically record bolt fastening force and operation records will see an increasing demand.



Besides contracting sales agents, KTC is considering manufacturing as an OEM. There are many mechanics in the U.S. purchasing tools from a total of 2,000 mobile shops. The top priority for KTC is to lay down a contract with a sales agent. ■

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