American News

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U.S. Tariffs Refund Process Begins

U.S. Customs launched the tariff refund portal, starting the first phase of refunds to U.S. companies forced to pay levies later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Not all the goods imported under the illegal tariffs immediately qualify for refunds. U.S. Customs estimates that it owes a total of $166 billion in tariff refunds, with the initial phase tackling the majority of affected imports. The vast majority of eligible importers owed a collective $127 billion reportedly signed up for electronic payments (an agency requirement). After refund requests are approved, it could take 60-90 days to return the money to the importer, according to the latest federal guidance.

U.S. tariffs have forced double-digit price hikes on fasteners in the past year, as well as supply chains disruptions for companies manufacturing fasteners and other metal products. The duties have created a "rough sea" for the U.S. fastener industry, according to Larry Spelman, the outgoing chairman of the Industrial Fasteners Institute.

The U.S. continues to rely on imported fasteners, with roughly 33% of domestic demand met by imports, mainly from Taiwan, China, Japan, Mexico, and Canada. At least 30% of U.S. fastener imports — nearly 1.2 million tons — came from Taiwan in 2025. While Taiwan and the U.S. renegotiated reciprocal tariffs to 15% in January, Taiwan fastener exports still face a 50% tariff under Section 232 provisions applied by the Trump administration.

Fastener industry insiders estimate the U.S. has capacity to replace about 20% of all fastener imports, hamstrung by a skilled worker shortage, machinery backlog and limited domestic wire rod capacity.

Fastenal Marks 25 Years in Mexico

Fastenal Co. marked its 25th anniversary in Mexico. The decision to enter the Mexico market came in 2000, and Fastenal's Apodaca branch began operating in 2001.

Those early days brought some unique challenges, according to international sales VP Nick Groth. "There was a lot of knocking on doors and making introductions with our 'Big Blue' catalog recalled Groth. "But people didn't understand the Fastenal name, and there isn't a great Spanish translation. We went with 'sujetar todo,' which roughly translates to 'hold everything.'" The Fastenal team listened, learned, and adapted to the needs of local customers, primarily manufacturers.

In 2005, the team expanded westward by opening a branch in Mexicali, Baja California. By 2008, the business was large enough to open a distribution center on the outskirts o Monterrey. The following year, a strategic sales force was developed to navigate cross-border logistics, complex compliance requirements, and demanding production schedules. In 2024, Fastenal completed construction on a new distribution center in Monterrey.

Over the years, several Mexico-honed strategies have helped accelerate Fastenal's evolution from an industrial distributor to a strategic supply chain partner. "Mexico pushed Fastenal to evolve," said Mario Vargas, who today serves as Fastenal's regional VP in Shanghai.

American Securities Completes Sale of MW Components to Rosebank Industries

Private equity firm, American Securities LLC, New York, NY, USA, completed the sale of MW Components, Charlotte, NC, USA, a leading manufacturer of highly engineered specialty fasteners, springs and precision metal components, to Rosebank Industries plc, London, UK, in a transaction valued at US$950 million. MW Components supplies mission-critical components to customers across aerospace and defense, electronics, semiconductors, medical, energy, agriculture and other diversified industrial end markets.

Since American Securities' investment in 2017, the company has transformed through a combination of strategic acquisitions, operational enhancements and investments in talent, equipment and technology. During American Securities' ownership, MW Components expanded its exposure to high-growth end markets and strengthened its digital and e-commerce capabilities through development of its proprietary "SNAP" software platform to facilitate rapid quoting activity. The company also completed nine strategic add-on acquisitions that broadened its product portfolio, expanded manufacturing capabilities and enhanced commercial reach across North America.

LSG Promotes Bryan Wheeler & Alexis Euwema

Bryan Wheeler

Lindfast Solutions Group (LSG), Blaine, MN, USA, announced the promotion of Bryan Wheeler to Vice President, Sales Operations. Wheeler brings more than a decade of proven leadership to this role, most recently serving as Sales Director at Star Stainless Screw Company. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently demonstrated strong commercial acumen, operational excellence and a steadfast commitment to advancing the business through collaboration and innovation.

Alexis Euwema

LSG also announced the promotion of Alexis Euwema to Vice President, Corporate Financial Planning & Analysis. In this expanded leadership role, Euwema will lead LSG's enterprise-wide FP&A strategy, partnering closely with executive leadership to strengthen financial discipline, enhance forecasting capabilities and drive long-term value creation across the organization. Euwema joined LSG in 2025 resulting from the acquisition of AZ Wire and Cable where she served as CFO.

Crescent Manufacturing Announces Expansion with New Facility

USA fastener manufacturer Crescent Manufacturing announced a US$3 million investment for a new 20,000 ft^2 facility in Burlington, CT, USA. This project reflects the company's ongoing commitment to growth, innovation and the strengthening of American manufacturing.

The expansion was made possible through the collaboration and support of key partners, including AdvanceCT, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), M&T Bank, Borghesi Building & Engineering, ConnSTEP and the US Small Business Administration. These collective efforts, along with support from the Town of Burlington and the State of Connecticut, played a critical role in bringing the project to life.

The expansion will enhance Crescent Manufacturing's production capacity, improve operational efficiencies and position the company to meet increasing demand across several industries including aerospace, defense and infrastructure. The new facility will also support the integration of advanced manufacturing technologies and improved workflow systems.

Steven Wilson, Owner of Crescent Manufacturing, said, "This expansion positions us to serve our customers better while strengthening our foundation for the next 65 years. We are grateful for the strong partnerships and programs that support domestic manufacturing and enable companies like ours to invest confidently in the future."

Construction is currently underway, with completion expected by October 2026. The expansion marks a significant milestone for Crescent Manufacturing, reinforcing the company's confidence in its workforce, partners and the long-term strength of USA manufacturing. ■