



SECTION 421 OVERVIEW

The president's decision to grant relief under the so-called Section 421 China-specific safeguard in the form of increased tariffs on all imports of passenger vehicle and light truck tires from China may have far-reaching implications. This decision could represent the opening salvo in a series of cases against Chinese products by U.S. parties seeking relief under Section 421. Rumors of new 421 cases have spanned a variety of industries, from apparel to steel, and companies sourcing products from China should therefore be prepared for the possibility of a 421 case, regardless of sector.

Section 421, a provision added to U.S. law when China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, is intended to address market disruption to U.S. industries, whether actual or threatened, when increased imports from China are a significant cause of injury. Because the measure expires in 2013, parties wishing to bring new 421 cases against Chinese products have an incentive to do so as soon as possible to obtain the greatest amount of relief available.

For detailed information on the scope and timeline of Section 421 safeguard proceedings, please click [here](#).

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