STEEL IMPORT MONITORING AND ANALYSIS SYSTEM (SIMA) NEWSLETTER

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate changes to the license system, steel import monitoring and analysis system (SIMA), and other items of interest to make the program run smoothly.

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Welcome

The big news for this installment of our newsletter is the publication of the Final Rule on SIMA. Please keep an eye out for code changes coming in January that will affect the licensing system. Also, we will begin releasing steel export data and downstream product import data from Census on the website.

Best Regards,

The Steel Licensing Team

Final Rule Published

The Department published the Final Rule for the SIMA system on December 5, 2005. For the text of this document please click on the following link: http://ia.ita.doc.gov/frn/0512frn/05-23627.txt. This is a continuation of the interim final rule and will not result in any changes for license filers.

Canadian and Mexican Monitors

As an initial step in a broader push for greater cooperation between the NAFTA nations on steel initiatives, the Department has added links to the steel import monitors for both Canada and Mexico. In the future, be on the lookout for the addition of NAFTA-wide steel monitoring, a part of the intra-NAFTA governmental effort at cooperation under the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP).

Please click on the following links to access NAFTA partner countries' steel monitors:

For the Canadian Steel Export and Import Controls: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade/eicb/agric/steel-en.asp

For the Mexican Import Monitoring, Iron and Steel Sector: http://204.153.24.121/consltPub/

HTS Code Changes for 2006

- **Effective January 1, 2006 the following HTS code will be discontinued and removed from the system: 7227.90.6050.**
- **Replacing this code will be 7227.90.6010 and 7227.90.6080.**

Export Data and Downstream Products

Please keep on the lookout for additions to the Steel Mill Import Monitor. We are currently developing monitors of both steel mill product exports and downstream product imports and exports. Both monitors present monthly and annual Census data in a format similar to the current Steel Mill Import Monitor. We value your suggestions so we can take them into consideration for future alterations.

Peter's Troubleshooting Tips

- Please be aware that the new system opens up new windows when you make certain selections in both applying for licenses and viewing tables and graphs. If you are getting no response when selecting options, please make sure you have your pop-up blocker off and have checked other windows you may have open.
- When submitting an application, a pop-up box may appear if the quantity or value of your item(s) is out of the normal range. If your figures are correct, simply press OK and proceed.
- After submitting a license, the submit button will fade not allowing multiple applications. Please do not create another license, because a duplicate license will be followed by an email asking for a cancellation of one of the duplicates. This is done to ensure the accuracy of our data.
- If you do submit a license with incorrect information you can easily go back and change that information using the "Correct License" feature available once you login with your user ID.
- Make sure you check the box in the bottom left corner verifying that you completed the license to the best of your knowledge, if you do not check this box the license will not be processed.

If you still experience problems, please do not hesitate to call or email the SIMA team for help. Also, if you have ideas on how to better the system, please do not hesitate to contact us with suggestions ❖

Differences Between License and Census #'s

The Import Monitor presents a comparison of preliminary Census data and License data for the most recent completed month of Census statistical release (usually about two months back-dated). Many times these numbers may be slightly off from each other. Aside from user error in filling out licenses there are a number of issues that contribute to this differential as well:

- Census reports steel import data by "statistical month." Statistical months are based on the "date of release" of the import, and thus, if goods arrive too late in the processing cycle for inclusion in the statistical month, they will go into the next month's set of data. This carryover is then moved back into the correct month at the annual revision conducted by Census. In contrast, the Import Monitor reports steel import data based on the "expected month of import" as reported in the steel licenses.

- Quantity and shipping weights are strictly monitored by Census for steel products and thus changes to these indicators occurs on over 100,000 records a month. This can be a result of filer misclassification and keying errors.

The Import Monitor has the option to "Compare Import Data from License to Census" as one of the menu options on the main page. If you have any further questions on this issue please do not hesitate to contact us.

Data Release Schedule
Census 2006 Preliminary Steel Dates

January – 2/28	May – 6/27	September – 10/24
February – 3/28	June – 7/25	October – 11/28
March – 4/25	July – 8/29	November – 12/27
April – 5/31	August – 9/26	December – 1/30

SIMA's data gets updated every Tuesday and will be up on the website by Wednesday of each week.

We encourage you to contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

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