
STEEL IMPORT MONITORING AND ANALYSIS SYSTEM (SIMA) NEWSLETTER



Volume IX

<http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/>

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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 edition of our newsletter is the planned changes to our product grouping system. After requests from many of our users and as mentioned in the Final Rule for the SIMA system, we have broken the product groups into “carbon and alloy” and “stainless” categories. Please be on the lookout for this change as well as a new menu that will allow for better searching of our system!

Best Regards,

The Steel Licensing Team

New Grade Breakouts!

As stated in the SIMA Final Federal Register Notice: “In response to a number of comments received, the Department plans to make some changes in the monitoring section...In addition, the Department plans to provide import data broken out by carbon, alloy, and stainless grades.”

We are now working out the details on new product groups that will break the current ones into either “carbon and alloy” or “stainless” grade breakouts. This will apply to both the aggregate level (long, flat, etc.) as well as the current list of 36 product groups (hot-rolled sheet, wire rods, etc.).

This change is being made in response to industry requests and is especially relevant to average unit values. Despite similarities in product breakdowns there is a significant differential between “carbon and alloy” steel and “stainless” steel in terms of price per ton. With our new breakdown of these groups any irregularities in AUV's will be eliminated, thus providing more relevant data to you, our customers.

The total number for the current product categories will remain available when the new system is made available online.

***ALSO PLEASE NOTE THIS ENHANCEMENT OF THE MONITOR WILL NOT AFFECT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS!**

Coming Soon ---New and Improved Menu

Along with our grade breakouts we will be providing a new menu for users to access all of our monitors (steel mill imports, downstream, and exports) from one easy to use source. Please try it out and let us know what you think!

Trend Tables and SIMA Data Download

We would like to highlight a couple portions of our monitor that you may not be aware of:

Trend Tables – Right below the monitor we have a section named “Recent Notable Trends from SIMA” that is a section that we put together, which picks up on large increases or decreases in country/product combinations. The program we use compares the most recent three months of data versus a running historical average. We hope you may find this useful.

SIMA Data Download – Under the SIMA Menu we give you option of downloading the 6 digit data into a text file and doing your own calculations. Simply click on “Export of License Data” in the Menu Options.

Peter's Troubleshooting Tips

While the licensing application continues to work well, we are experiencing occasional glitches in the email confirmations--preceded by the "form processed" message. In these instances the licenses are issued but due to a busy server sometimes the full task is not finished and the system does not provide a copy of the license for printing. We are aware of this problem and are working with our tech people to resolve it. If you still experience problems, please do not hesitate to call or email the SIMA team for help. We have issued almost 1.3 million licenses--an average of 1,700-1,800 per weekday.

Also, please respond promptly to our inquiries about duplicate licenses and possible problems in the data entry on the licenses. The quality of our monitor depends on your responsiveness to these issues! ❖

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

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