ELP ECONOMIC LAWS PRACTICE
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

TRADE NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2026

CONTENTS

I. TRADE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS UPDATES

A. TRADE REMEDIAL ACTIONS BY INDIA

During June 2026, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (**DGTR**) initiated fifteen anti-dumping investigation and issued eleven final findings, ten in anti-dumping investigation and one in countervailing investigation. Further details are provided below:

PRODUCT	SUBJECT COUNTRIES IN THE INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF NOTIFICATION	DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION
Moulded Soda-Lime Glass Vials	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 30, 2026
Cyanuric Chloride	China PR and European Union	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 30, 2026
Carbon Raiser made of Anthracite Coal	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 30, 2026
Electric Tractors in 6x4 and 4x2 axle configuration in any form	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 30, 2026
Polyethylene Terephthalate Film above 100 microns	China PR, Thailand and UAE	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 30, 2026
Jute Products	Bangladesh and Nepal	Anti-dumping, Mid Term Review	Final Finding	June 25, 2026
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)	State of Kuwait, Malaysia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 25, 2026
Dialyzers	China PR and Malaysia	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 25, 2026

Hot Rolled Flat Products of Alloy or Non-Alloy Steel	China PR, Japan and Russia	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 25, 2026
Virgin Multi-layer Paperboard	Indonesia	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 25, 2026
Certain Antioxidants	China, Korea, Singapore	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 24, 2026
BOPA Films	China PR and Thailand	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 24, 2026
Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch	Vietnam	Countervailing duty, original investigation	Final Finding	June 24, 2026
Stainless-Steel Seamless Tubes & Pipes	China PR	Anti-dumping, Mid-Term Review	Final Finding	June 24, 2026
Thermal Paper or Thermal Sensitive Paper	USA, China PR, and South Korea	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 24, 2026
N-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine (also known as PX-13)	China PR, European Union, Korea RP and Kingdom of Thailand	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 24, 2026
Sodium Nitrite	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 23, 2026
Ethylene Diamine	China PR, European Union, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Taiwan	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 23, 2026
Décor Paper	China PR	Anti-dumping, Sunset Review	Initiation	June 23, 2026

4- (Bromomethyl)-2'-cyanobiphenyl also known as "Bromo OTBN"	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 23, 2026
Para Nonylphenol	Russia and Taiwan	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 23, 2026
Cold Rolled Grain Oriented Electrical Steel (CRGO) and Amorphous Metal (AM)	China, Japan, Korea RR, Russia	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 22, 2026
Resorcinol	China PR and Japan	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Initiation	June 18, 2026
Methyl Acetoacetate	Switzerland	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 17, 2026
Faced Glass Wool in Rolls	Egypt	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 15, 2026
Thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU)–based Surface/Paint Protection Film	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	Final Finding	June 12, 2026

B. TRADE REMEDIAL ACTIONS AGAINST INDIA

During June 2026, trade remedy actions concerning Indian exports were observed in the United States of America (**USA/US**) while no major developments were noted in trade remedial investigations involving India in other jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom (**UK**) and the European Union (**EU**). Further details of the individual cases are provided below:

PRODUCT	COUNTRY	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF NOTIFICATION[1]	DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION[2]
Certain Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing of Carbon and Alloy Steel	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	June 12, 2026
Glycine	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Final Results	June 16, 2026
Raw Honey	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	June 18, 2026
Finished Carbon Steel Flanges	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Final Results	June 08, 2026
Finished Carbon Steel Flanges	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	June 18, 2026
Certain New Pneumatic Off-The-Road Tires	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Preliminary Results	June 25, 2026
Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts	USA	Countervailing Duty	Preliminary Results	June 26, 2026
Carbazole Violet Pigment 23	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Preliminary Results	June 23, 2026

[1] The information is based on notifications published in the Federal Register during June 2026. Any institutions or determinations issued by the US Department of Commerce or the US International Trade Commission that were not published in the Federal Register during this period are not reflected.
[2] The date of notification is based on the date of publication in US Federal Register.

Glycine	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	June 12, 2026
Carbazole Violet Pigment 23	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	June 22, 2026
Certain New Pneumatic Off-the-Road Tires	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Preliminary Results	June 01, 2026
Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	June 02, 2026
Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	June 02, 2026
Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Initiation	June 02, 2026
Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Initiation	June 02, 2026
Off-The-Road Tires	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative review	Initiation	June 02, 2026

ELP COMMENT:

Trade remedial activity gathered significant momentum towards the close of the quarter, with a notable number of investigations initiated and several final findings issued in June 2026. This trend aligns with the typical pattern under the Indian trade remedial framework, where key actions and milestones are often concentrated in June and extend into July.

II. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INDIA

A. MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MoF)

During June 2026, the MoF issued key notifications effecting the imposition, continuation of anti-dumping and countervailing duty on various products. A summary of the update is set out below:

PRODUCT	HSN	CHANGE IN DUTY	DATE
Textured Tempered Glass	7003, 7005, 7007, 7016, 7020 and 8541	Continuation of ad valorem countervailing duty on goods originating in or exported from Malaysia	June 02, 2026
Aluminium Wire /Wire Rods ranging from 9mm to 13mm	76011040, 76012040,76041010, 76042920 76051100 and 76052100	Continuation of ad valorem countervailing duty on goods originating in or exported from Malaysia	June 10, 2026
Aluminium Foil 80 micron and below	7606	Continuation of anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia	June 10, 2026
Sulphenamides Accelerators	29215190, 29303000, 29319090, 29342010, 29342090, 29349990,38121000, 38122090, 381231 00, 38123910, 38123920, 38123930 and 38123990	Fixed anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR, the EU and the USA	June 19, 2026
Polyethylene Terephthalate resin having an intrinsic viscosity of 0.72 decilitres per gram or higher	39076110, 39076190, 39076930 and 39076990	Continuation of fixed anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR	June 19, 2026

Additionally, although the DGTR had recommended anti-dumping duties on certain products in March 2026, the statutory window for the MoF to implement them lapsed in June 2026 without issuance of a customs notification. A summary is provided in the table below.

PRODUCT	SUBJECT COUNTRIES OF THE INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	DATE OF FINAL FINDINGS
Faced Glass Wool	China PR	Anti-dumping, SSR	Mar 11, 2026
4, 4 Diamino Stilbene 2, 2 Disulphonic Acid (DASDA)	China PR	Anti-dumping	Mar 16, 2026
Flexible Slabstock Polyol	China PR and Thailand	Anti-dumping	Mar 17, 2026
Flexible Slabstock Polyol	Saudi Arabia	Anti-dumping, SSR	Mar 17, 2026
Elastomeric Filament Yarns	China PR and Vietnam	Anti-dumping	Mar 18, 2026
Liquified Natural Gas Fuel Tank (LFT)	China PR	Anti-dumping	Mar 18, 2026
Viscose Rayon Filament Yarn (VFY) above 75 deniers	China PR	Anti-dumping	Mar 19, 2026
Nylon Filament Yarn	China PR and Vietnam	Anti-dumping	Mar 19, 2026
Beta Naphthol	China PR	Anti-dumping	Mar 19, 2026
2- Ethyl Hexanol	EU, Indonesia, Korea RP, Malaysia, Taiwan and USA	Anti-dumping, SSR	Mar 19, 2026
2,2,4-Trimethyl-1,2 Dihydroquinoline (TDQ)	China PR	Anti-dumping	Mar 19, 2026
Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Paste Resin	EU and Japan	Anti-dumping	Mar 19, 2026
Emulsion Styrene Butadiene Rubber of 1500 series	EU, Japan, Korea RP, Russia and Thailand	Anti-dumping	Mar 20, 2026

ELP COMMENT:

The trend observed in late 2025 has continued into 2026. Recent notifications indicate that the MoF has not notified anti-dumping duties in approximately 81% of cases where the DGTR issued affirmative final findings. This underscores that an affirmative DGTR recommendation no longer necessarily results in the imposition of duties, with implementation increasingly influenced by broader policy and economic considerations.

B. DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE (DGFT)

Key trade policy changes issued by the DGFT in June 2026 are summarized below:

Notifications

Notification 18/2026-27 dated June 02, 2026 – Nomination of 40 non-official members to the Board of Trade from various industry, professional and institutional backgrounds, in supersession of Notification No. 21/2015-2020 dated July 08, 2022, along with terms of reference for advising on trade policy, export promotion, infrastructure gaps, institutional streamlining and India's foreign trade competitiveness.

Notification 19/2026-27 dated June 02, 2026 – Import of specified silver items under Chapter 71 of ITC (HS) 2022 through nominated agencies notified by the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), DGFT and qualified jewellers notified by the International Financial Services Centres Authority ("IFSCA") for import through the India International Bullion Exchange ("IIBX"), wherever allowed, will be permitted only against a valid Import Authorisation issued by DGFT.

Notification 20/2026-27 dated June 02, 2026 – Para 2.03A(iii) of Foreign Trade Policy ("FTP") 2023 is amended to align the exemption from applicability of Quality Control Orders ("QCOs") for imports by Special Economic Zone ("SEZ") Units and Developers with the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006, and to clarify QCO applicability for goods removed, transferred or cleared into the Domestic Tariff Area ("DTA").

Notification 21/2026-27 dated June 29, 2026 – Eligibility timelines under Component II of the Export Promotion Mission ("EPM") Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation ("RELIEF") intervention are extended up to September 30, 2026, to support Indian exporters and mitigate logistics challenges arising from the continuing West Asia crisis.

Notification 22/2026-27 dated June 30, 2026 – Chapter 74 and Chapter 76 of ITC (HS) 2022 are amended to allow importers to obtain registration under the Non-Ferrous Metal Import Monitoring System ("NFMIMS") any time before issuance of the Customs "Out of Charge" order, thereby easing compliance and facilitating smoother import clearance.

Public Notices

Public Notice 14/2026-27 dated June 01, 2026 – Six new Standard Input Output Norms ("SIONs") for export products under Chemical & Allied Product Group "A" are notified to enable Regional Authorities ("RAs") to issue Advance Authorisations directly, eliminating case-by-case referrals to the Norms Committee and ensuring faster and more uniform approvals.

Public Notice 15/2026-27 dated June 02, 2026 – The list of authorised agencies permitted to issue Preferential Certificates of Origin ("CoO") under the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ("India-Oman CEPA") is notified by amending Appendix 2B of FTP 2023.

Public Notice 16/2026-27 dated June 02, 2026 – Para 2.88(a) of the Handbook of Procedures ("HBP") 2023 is amended to facilitate exporters to obtain Certificates of Origin ("CoO") under the India-Oman CEPA through the authorised agency issuance system.

Public Notice 17/2026-27 dated June 04, 2026 – The Porbandar District Chamber of Commerce & Industries ("PDCCI") is enlisted under Appendix 2E of FTP 2023 as an agency authorised to issue Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin with immediate effect.

Trade Notices

Trade Notice 07/2026-27 dated June 03, 2026 – DGFT has invited stakeholder comments within 7 days on the proposed alignment of Schedule-II (Export Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 with the amendments introduced under the Finance Act, 2026, including changes to Chapter Notes, HS Codes, and Product Descriptions.

III. GLOBAL TRADE REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

A. EU

- **EU Steel Regulation: Commission (EC) launches consultation on the type of evidence to be provided on country of 'melt and pour'**

The EU Steel Regulation is aimed at addressing the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity on the EU steel market. It has set free-of-duty quotas of 18.3 million tons, with a 50% duty for out-of-quota imports and a melt-and-pour regime to enhance transparency.

To supplement these regulations, the EC is preparing an implementing act specifying the evidence importers must provide to demonstrate compliance with the 'melt and pour' requirement.

The Implementing Act (IA) on 'melt and pour' traceability requirements will determine the type of documentary evidence needed to demonstrate where the steel was originally melted and poured.

Consultation from stakeholders ran from 02 June to 02 July of 2026. Following the consultation, the EC will analyse the comments, and IA is expected to be adopted by 31 August 2026, and enter into force on 01 October 2026.

- **EU and Korea sign landmark digital trade agreement (DTA) at the EU-Republic of Korea Summit held in Brussels**

About a third of total trade in services between the EU and Korea are delivered digitally (Euro 11Bn in 2023). The DTA with Korea is EU's second DTA after the one with Singapore.

The DTA complements the EU-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement (2011) and has binding high-standard digital trade rules aimed at enhancing consumer safety and confidence in the digital economy.

In addition, the agreement facilitates cross-border data flows and prohibits the mandatory transfer of source code. These will be in addition to each country's personal data & privacy laws.

The DTA will now undergo ratification process as per the domestic laws of Korea and the EU.

- **EU concludes negotiations on modernised Economic Partnership Agreement with four Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA4) States (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles)**

The EU is ESA4's largest trading partner, accounting for 24% of its total trade in goods and for 33% of its total trade in services. In 2024, total trade in goods and services between the EU and the ESA4 States reached €9.7 billion, comprising €5.2 billion in EU imports and €4.5 billion in EU exports.

The two concluded negotiations on an enhanced Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and will remain open for accession by other ESA countries. It was the result of enhanced negotiations that began in 2019 to expand the scope of interim EPA.

The agreement covers clear rules on services, investment, public procurement, IP, digital trade and so on. The scope of cooperation is broad and covers key areas needed to ensure that trade and investment effectively contribute to sustainable development.

The texts will be published soon, followed by adoption by the Council. Thereafter, the parties can sign the agreement.

- **Commission imposes anti-dumping duties on imports of BDO from People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America**

BDO is an intermediate chemical used in the production of several downstream chemical products including polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polybutylene adipate terephthalate (PBAT), polyurethane (PU), saturated polyester (SAT), tetrahydrofuran (THF), n-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP), thermoplastic copolyester (TPC) and gamma-butyrolactone (GBL).

The major industries using it includes the automotive, defence, textiles, plastics, electronics, construction, batteries, pharmaceutical, and cosmetics industries.

The definitive anti-dumping duties range from 105.6% to 113.7% for China; 52.4% for Saudi Arabia, and from 135.7% to 142.5% for the US.

- **EU publishes updated rules on foreign investment screening**

The updated framework is aimed at protection of critical sectors, assets and technologies while maintaining the EU's general openness to foreign investment.

The update introduces mandatory screening mechanism, covers indirect foreign investment, and extends screening to EU-based investors that are ultimately controlled by an individual or entity from a non-EU country.

The framework particularly focusses on investments in sensitive and strategic areas such as dual-use items, critical technologies, critical raw materials, financial services, transport, energy, and electoral infrastructure.

The update was published on 20 June 2026 and will enter into force 20 days after its publication. EU Member States will have 18 months to implement the Regulation's minimum requirements.

- **European Commission presents its proposals on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) with Indonesia to the European Council**

The Commission has sought Council's approval to sign the agreements (CEPA and IPA). It will also require European Parliament's consent before conclusion and its entry into force.

The agreement aims to remove import duties on 98.5% of tariff lines and simplifying export procedures for EU goods to Indonesia including agri-food exports.

It also aims to open new opportunities for EU investment in Indonesia in strategic sectors such as electric vehicles, electronics and pharmaceuticals. IP protection and securing exports of critical minerals are also aimed to be achieved through the agreements.

Indonesia is also undertaking to complete its internal ratification procedure.

B. USA

- **USTR Finds Brazil's Trade Practices Actionable Under Section 301, Proposes Responsive Measures**

The USTR determined that several Brazilian policies and practices unfairly restrict U.S. commerce, making them actionable under Section 301 of the Trade Act.

The findings cover six key areas: digital trade and payments, preferential tariffs, anti-corruption enforcement, intellectual property protection, ethanol market access, and illegal deforestation.

USTR criticized Brazil's treatment of U.S. digital companies, alleging restrictions on social media platforms and preferential treatment for domestic electronic payment providers.

The U.S. also raised concerns over Brazil's preferential tariff arrangements with Mexico and India, weak anti-corruption and IP enforcement, lack of reciprocal access for U.S. ethanol, and continued illegal deforestation.

The USTR has proposed responsive measures, opened a public consultation process, and will continue discussions with Brazil ahead of a July 15, 2026, deadline for potential action.

- **USTR Targets 60 Economies Over Forced Labor Trade Practices, Proposes New Tariffs**

The USTR determined that 60 economies have failed to adequately prohibit or enforce restrictions on imports of goods produced with forced labor, deeming these practices actionable under Section 301 of the Trade Act.

The investigation found that 54 economies lack effective forced-labor import prohibitions, while six others—including Canada, the EU, Mexico, Indonesia, Ecuador, and Pakistan—have failed to effectively enforce existing measures.

USTR argues that these shortcomings distort global competition, enable lower-cost production through forced labor, undermine compliant businesses, and facilitate circumvention of existing forced-labor restrictions.

As a response, the USTR has proposed additional duties on imports from the investigated economies: 10% for economies that have adopted or committed to forced-labor import prohibitions, and 12.5% for all others.

A textile-specific mechanism has also been proposed to allow limited volumes of apparel and textile imports from certain economies to enter the U.S. at reduced Section 301 tariff rates.

The proposed measures are open for public consultation, with hearings scheduled for July 7, 2026, before any final action is decided.

- **USTR Launches Section 301 Probe into Germany's Pharmaceutical Pricing Po**

The USTR has initiated a Section 301 investigation into whether Germany's reimbursement and pricing policies for innovative pharmaceuticals unfairly underpay for U.S.-developed medicines and burden U.S. commerce.

The U.S. argues that Germany's pricing practices force American patients and consumers to bear a disproportionate share of global pharmaceutical R&D costs.

The investigation follows months of discussions with German authorities and concerns that proposed German legislation could further reduce spending on innovative medicines.

USTR cited pharmaceutical pricing mechanisms such as confidential discount arrangements and mandatory rebate systems as potential contributors to unfair reimbursement levels.

The U.S. is seeking consultations with Germany and has pointed to its recent pharmaceutical pricing arrangement with the UK as a model for addressing reimbursement imbalances.

Public comments and hearing requests are due by August 10, 2026, with a hearing scheduled for September 22, 2026, before any potential trade action is considered.

- **U.S. and Uzbekistan Deepen Trade Ties, Fast-Track Reciprocal Trade and Investment Agreem**

The United States and Uzbekistan announced an "early harvest" package of trade commitments aimed at strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

Uzbekistan committed to reducing or eliminating tariffs on a broad range of U.S. industrial and agricultural products, while the U.S. agreed to give favourable consideration to Uzbek goods in future tariff actions, consistent with U.S. law.

The two sides will accelerate negotiations toward a comprehensive Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment to further deepen economic relations.

The announcement builds on the $32 billion in bilateral commercial deals announced in 2025, including an $8.5 billion Boeing agreement and investments across critical minerals, mining, energy, finance, and IT sectors.

The U.S. also reaffirmed its support for Uzbekistan's WTO accession process and recognized the country's progress toward membership.

C. UK

- **UK Prioritizes Services Exports in Renewed Trade Engagement with China**

The UK is seeking greater access for its services sector in China through discussions under the 15th UK–China Joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO).

The initiative focuses on expanding opportunities for UK firms in high-value sectors such as professional services, engineering, architecture, life sciences, and finance.

Recent commercial developments highlighted include Barclays' entry into China's domestic bond market through Panda Bond issuances, Formula E's expanded partnerships in China, and increased professional services cooperation.

The UK is also exploring a potential Trade in Services Agreement with China to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties while continuing to manage national security considerations.

- **UK and Malaysia Launch Negotiations for Digital Trade Agreement**

The UK and Malaysia have formally launched negotiations for a Digital Trade Agreement (DTA) designed to facilitate digital commerce and support economic growth.

Proposed provisions include stronger protections for personal data, intellectual property, cybersecurity, and online consumers.

The DTA is expected to strengthen cooperation on emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and data-driven innovation.

Malaysia is an important digital trade partner for the UK, with bilateral trade reaching £6.4 billion in 2025, while UK exports of digitally delivered services to Malaysia totaled £730 million in 2023.

- **UK Sets January 2027 Deadline for Ban on Russian Diesel and Jet Fuel Imports via Third Countries**

The UK has confirmed that imports of diesel and jet fuel derived from Russian crude through third countries will be fully prohibited by 1 January 2027.

A temporary license allowing such imports during the transition period will remain under review every two weeks and may be withdrawn earlier if conditions permit.

The UK stated that over 3,300 individuals, entities, and vessels have been sanctioned under its Russia sanctions regime to date.

- **UK and New Zealand Reaffirm Strong FTA Partnership, Expand Trade Cooperation**

UK and New Zealand reaffirmed their commitment to the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with two-way goods and services trade reaching a record £4.0 billion (NZ$7.4 billion) in 2025.

Businesses continue to make extensive use of FTA benefits, with 91.5% of eligible trade utilizing preferential tariff treatment in 2025.

The two sides reaffirmed support for CPTPP expansion, WTO reform, and a rules-based international trading system amid global economic uncertainty.

The UK also announced its intention to begin the process of joining the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA) and welcomed the signing of a new UK-New Zealand Double Tax Agreement.

IV. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

A. PRODUCT-SPECIFIC EXEMPTION UNDER THE ROPES AND CORDAGES QCO

- On June 05, 2026, the Ministry of Textiles issued the Ropes and Cordages (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026.
- The amendment provides that the Ropes and Cordages (Quality Control) Order, 2024 will not apply to '*Fibre ropes – Polypropylene split film, monofilament and multifilament (PP2) and polypropylene hightenacity multifilament (PP3) – 3-, 4-, 8- and 12- strand ropes*' made out of recycled plastic waste, for a period of 12 months from June 05, 2026.

B. RESCISSION OF THE COTTON BALES QUALITY CONTROL ORDER

- On June 09, 2026, the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards rescinded the operation of the Cotton Bales (Quality Control) Order, 2023 with immediate effect.

C. AMENDMENTS TO FOOTWEAR QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

- On June 12, 2026, DPIIT issued the Footwear made from All Rubber and all Polymeric Material and its Components (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026 and the Footwear made from Leather and other Materials (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026.
- Through these amendments, the following changes have been introduced:
  - The exemption permitting the sale, display, or offer for sale of footwear not bearing the BIS Standard Mark, manufactured or imported prior to the commencement of the respective QCOs, has been extended until July 31, 2027.
  - Manufacturers of leather and footwear products are exempted from the QCO requirements for the import of up to 4,500 pairs of footwear per year for research and development and non-commercial use. This exemption is subject to the conditions that the imported goods must not be sold commercially, must be clearly marked and embossed with the words "NOT FOR SALE", and may only be disposed of as scrap. Manufacturers are also required to maintain year-wise records of such imports and furnish them to the Government as and when requested.

D. RELAXATIONS TO CERTAIN STEEL AND STEEL-RELATED QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026

On June 20, 2026, the Ministry of Steel issued the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026.

Pursuant to the amendment, the enforcement of the QCO has been deferred for products covered under Serial Nos. 23 and 129 of the Steel and Steel Products QCO for a period of three years. Further, the enforcement of the QCO has been deferred for products covered under Serial Nos. 51, 52, and 53 until March 31, 2027. A summary of the amendment is provided below:

<table>
<tr><th>INDIAN STANDARD</th><th>EARLIER DATE OF ENFORCEMENT[3]</th><th>PERIOD OF DEFERMENT</th></tr>
<tr><td>IS 2879: 1998 - Mild steel for metal arc welding electrodes.</td><td rowspan="5">August 29, 2024</td><td rowspan="2">June 20, 2026 - June 20, 2029</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS 5518: 1996 - Steels for Die Blocks for Drop Forging Specification.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS 5522: 2014 - Stainless steel sheets and strips for utensils – Specification.</td><td rowspan="3">June 20, 2026 - March 31, 2027</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS 6911: 2017 - Stainless steel plate, sheet and strip – Specification.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS 15997: 2012 - Low Nickel Austenitic Stainless-Steel Sheet and Strip for Utensils and Kitchen Appliances – Specification.</td></tr>
</table>

Cross Recessed Screws (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026

On June 20, 2026, the Ministry of Steel issued the Cross Recessed Screws (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026.

Pursuant to this amendment, products covered under Serial Nos. 12, 13, and 14 of the Cross Recessed Screws QCO shall remain outside the scope of mandatory BIS certification requirements for a period of three years. A summary of the amendment is provided below:

<table>
<tr><th>INDIAN STANDARD</th><th>EARLIER DATE OF ENFORCEMENT[4]</th><th>PERIOD OF DEFERMENT</th></tr>
<tr><td>IS 18507: 2024 - Drywall Screws – Specification</td><td rowspan="2">Date of implementation in General (other than Micro and Small Enterprises):

November 01, 2025</td><td rowspan="2">June 20, 2026 - June 20, 2029</td></tr>
<tr><td>IS 18508: 2024 - Chipboard Screws – Specification</td></tr>
</table>

[3] *Subject to applicable exemptions/relaxations granted by the Ministry of Steel.*

[4] *Subject to applicable exemptions/relaxations granted by the Ministry of Steel and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.*

18509: 2023 - Cross-recessed Countersunk Head Wood Screws – Specification	Date of Implementation for Small Enterprises: February 01, 2026 Date of Implementation for Micro Enterprises: May 01, 2026	June 20, 2026 - June 20, 2029

- On June 25, 2026, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (DPIIT), notified the Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 (Transition Order), which came into force on the same date.

E. TRANSITION FACILITATION FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED FOR SPECIFIED QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS

- The Transition Order applies only to goods or articles covered by the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) specified in their Schedule (Scheduled QCOs), which are as follows:
  - Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020
  - Personal Protective Equipment - Footwear (Quality Control) Order, 2020
  - Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Order, 2019
  - Footwear made from All Rubber and all Polymeric Material and its components (Quality Control) Order, 2024
  - Footwear made from Leather and other Materials (Quality Control) Order, 2024
  - Electrical appliance for domestic water heating (Quality Control) Order, 2025
  - Electrical appliance for domestic clothes washing (Quality Control) Order, 2024
  - Hinges (Quality Control) Order, 2025
  - Furniture (Quality Control) Order, 2025
  - Safety of Household, Commercial and Similar Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2026
- The Transition Order provides an alternative route to BIS certification for goods covered by the Scheduled QCOs. Manufacturers required by the Scheduled QCOs to obtain BIS licences under the BIS's Scheme I (a more stringent certification procedure) may now obtain licences under the BIS's Scheme II (a self-declaration registration scheme) if the goods are intended for supply to DPIIT-permitted companies.
- Please click here to access our update on the Transition Order to get further details.

F. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF LINEAR ALKYL BENZENE QCO

- On June 25, 2026, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals issued an amendment to the Linear Alkyl Benzene (Quality Control) Order, 2022.

- The amendment temporarily suspends the operation of the Linear Alkyl Benzene QCO from July 01, 2026, to September 30, 2026, in view of global exigencies and supply chain disruption affecting availability of Linear Alkyl Benzene.

G. PRODUCT-SPECIFIC EXEMPTION UNDER THE COPPER PRODUCTS QCO

- On June 30, 2026, DPIIT issued the Copper Products (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026.
- Pursuant to this amendment, the QCO will not apply to Inner Grooved Copper Tubes conforming to IS 10773:2025 and intended for use in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment from June 30, 2026, to November 30, 2026. This exemption is subject to the condition that the quantity imported during the exemption period does not exceed 50% of the average quantity imported during the financial years 2024–25 and 2025–26.

ELP COMMENT:

- ***The Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 is a significant development in India's QCO framework and is a welcome measure for industry, particularly for sectors facing supply continuity, certification and testing constraints. By permitting a Scheme II-based route for specified manufacturers supplying to approved Indian companies, the Order introduces a more flexible, risk-assessed compliance pathway while retaining the requirement that goods conform to applicable Indian Standards.***
- ***At the same time, the Transition Order marks an important shift in India's technical regulations regime. QCOs have traditionally been anchored in product quality, factory inspection and BIS licensing. The Transition Facilitation framework introduces a permission-based route in which regulatory facilitation may be influenced by investment commitments, proposed supply chain development in India, technology adoption, design capability, R&D commitments, compliance history and milestone implementation. This places industrial policy considerations within what has principally been a product-quality and standards regime.***
- ***The core principle of a QCO is that market access should be governed by conformity with prescribed Indian Standards. If facilitation is materially linked to the importer's investment commitments or proposed domestic manufacturing plans, the distinction between quality regulation and investment-linked market access becomes less clear. Further, the Implementation Committee has broad case-by-case discretion to assess technical capability, compliance integrity, investment plans, milestones and other public interest considerations, which may create uncertainty unless supported by objective and consistently applied parameters.***
- ***Overall, the Transition Facilitation Order is an important and commercially useful relaxation within the QCO regime, but its long-term credibility will depend on how transparently it is administered. DPIIT should consider issuing detailed, objective and sector-specific guidance on eligibility, entitlement, assessment methodology, documentation, renewal, supplier changes, milestone verification, market surveillance and consequences of non-compliance. Without such codification, the framework may invite recurring industry queries and create avoidable uncertainty in a regime that is intended to provide transition certainty while preserving product quality and consumer protection.***

V. DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA'S REGIONAL TRADEAGREEMENTS (RTAS)

During the month of June 2026, India was involved in various trade negotiations. The following developments highlight the progress and outcomes of these engagements:

- **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**

On June 1, 2026, the CEPA entered into force.

The CEPA provides duty-free access for 99.38% of India's exports to Oman by value, covering 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines, making it one of the most comprehensive market access outcomes secured by India in the Gulf region. All zero-duty concessions come into effect immediately.

India has offered tariff liberalization on 77.79% of tariff lines covering 94.81% of imports from Oman by value, while maintaining safeguards for sensitive products such as dairy, cereals, fruits, vegetables, edible oils, oilseeds, rubber, leather, spices and key agricultural products.

The CEPA also contains commitments on services, investment and trade facilitation. It enhances market access for Indian service providers, improves mobility for professionals, reduces non-tariff barriers through regulatory cooperation.

- **India-Philippines Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI)**

On June 05, 2026, the JWGTI held their fourteenth meeting.

The meeting covered trends in bilateral trade and investment, identification of priority products and services, and promotional activities and cooperation across various fields. It also covered customs cooperation and facilitation, agricultural cooperation and market access for specific products, and trade settlement in national currencies.

The meeting also discussed the early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement Review, and the engagement for a bilateral India-Philippines Preferential Trade Agreement thereafter.

- **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**

On June 12, 2026, the Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry visited Switzerland for discussions with senior representatives of the Swiss Government and leaders of the Swiss pharmaceutical industry.

The discussions focused on setting a roadmap for implementation of the agreement, prioritising regulatory cooperation, skill development and innovation to enhance trade and investment ties.

As per publicly available information, following the visit, the Swiss government is fast-tracking implementation of TEPA to further enhance its industrial presence in India.

- **India-USA Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)**

A delegation from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (**USTR**) visited India from June 1-4, 2026, to advance discussions on the BTA. The discussions covered a wide range of issues such as trade in goods, non-tariff measures, customs and trade facilitation, economic security alignment and other areas of mutual interest.

The USTR visited again from June 22-24, 2026, and held multiple rounds of discussions with the Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry. The discussions involved a comprehensive review of core BTA elements, including enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors.

- **India-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation (CTESTC**

On June 10, 2026, the CTESTC held their twelfth meeting in virtual mode. The meeting concluded with the signing of the protocol of the twelfth session.

The meeting involved a review of the regulatory and market access issues affecting bilateral trade and both sides agreed to strengthen coordination between competent authorities, trade bodies and business chambers.

The meeting identified services, pharmaceuticals and healthcare as a major area of cooperation, while also exploring agriculture, food products and food safety. India conveyed its readiness to work with Tajikistan to expand agricultural exports in a manner that supports food security, consumer choice and mutually beneficial trade.

The CTESTC also discussed cooperation in energy, hydropower, renewable energy, mining and critical minerals, science and technology, investment, textiles and leather, light industries, digital economy, innovation, tourism, transport, logistics, banking and finance. Both sides agreed that these sectors offer new opportunities for industrial and economic cooperation between India and Tajikistan.

- **India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Agreement on Social Security (AoSS)**

On June 17, 2026, India and UK announced that the CETA and the AoSS will enter into force on July 15, 2026.

The CETA was concluded on May 06, 2025, after fourteen rounds of negotiations, and was officially signed on July 24, 2025. The CETA accords tariff elimination on approximately 99% of the tariff lines covering almost 100% of the trade value between the two nations, with key sectors benefiting from immediate or phased tariff reductions.

The AoSS aims to support mobility and continued social security coverage of the employees on temporary overseas assignments. It exempts Indian workers and employers from making dual social security contributions in the UK during temporary assignments. The period of exemption has been increased from 3 years to 5 years. This will enhance India-UK partnerships in the service sector, leveraging the high skills and innovative service sectors of both countries.

- **India-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission (IUIC)**

The IUIC reviewed bilateral economic cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trade and investment ties.

Discussions focused on expanding trade in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, engineering goods, Information and Communication Technology, digital services and energy, while addressing non-tariff barriers and improving logistics connectivity.

VI. WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A. WTO DISPUTES

- **South Africa notifies safeguard investigation on imports of A3 and A4 office paper**

On June 08, 2026, South Africa notified the WTO'S Committee on Safeguards that it had initiated a safeguard investigation on A3, and A4 office paper imported into the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) on June 05, 2026.

- **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) agrees to establish panel in India - Measures Concerning Trade in Goods in the Solar Cell, Solar Module, and Information Technology Sectors (DS 644)**

On June 23, 2026, China submitted its second request for the establishment of a dispute panel to determine whether tariffs applied by India to certain imported high-tech goods, as well as certain incentive measures for solar energy products that China say are contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods, are consistent with India's WTO commitments.

The DSB agreed to the establishment of the panel.

Australia, Brazil, Canada, the EU, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Türkiye, the UK, and the USA reserved their third-party rights to participate in the proceeding.

B. WTO COMMITTEE

- **General Council**

On June 26, 2026, the General Council discussed the next phase of WTO reform, with the Chair outlining a roadmap for substantive work following guidance from Ministerial Conference 14 ("**MC 14**").

Building on discussions at MC14, Members agreed to advance work in four areas: foundational issues, decision-making, development, and level playing field issues, with discussions proceeding in parallel.

The Chair announced the appointment of facilitators to lead discussions in each reform area and identified indicative milestones, including reviews by the General Council in December 2026 and February 2027 and a mid-term ministerial review in 2027.

Members emphasized the urgency of WTO reform and their commitment to strengthening the effectiveness and relevance of the multilateral trading system.

- **Fisheries Subsidies Agreement**

On June 03, 2026, Tonga submitted its first notification under the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, becoming the first notification prepared with support from the WTO Fish Fund.

Under the Agreement, Members are required to notify information on fisheries subsidies and relevant regional fisheries management arrangements to support transparency and implementation.

- **Joint Initiative on Electronic Commerce**

On June 09, 2026, co-sponsors of the E-Commerce Agreement ("**ECA**") discussed preparations for ratification and implementation of the Agreement under the interim arrangements launched at MC14.

Members discussed efforts to secure the 45 ratifications required for entry into force, with co-convenors indicating a target of mid-2027.

Members also reviewed ongoing technical assistance, capacity-building and outreach activities aimed at supporting implementation and encouraging broader participation in the Agreement.

- **Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions**

On June 22, 2026, the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions held consultations on the United States' temporary 10% import surcharge, adopted under Article XII of the GATT 1994 to address its balance-of-payments deficit.

WTO Members considered presentations by the United States, the International Monetary Fund, and the WTO Secretariat on the measure and the US balance-of-payments situation.

Members raised questions regarding the justification, scope, and impact of the surcharge, including its consistency with Article XII and exemptions granted to certain countries and products. The United States provided responses and additional clarifications.

The United States indicated that the measure, which entered into force on 24 February 2026, is expected to expire on 24 July 2026, unless extended by the United States Congress.

- **Committee on Trade and Environment**

On June 01 and 05, 2026**,** Members reviewed outcomes of the seventh WTO Trade and Environment Week, launched a voluntary information-sharing exercise on trade-related climate measures, and discussed future thematic work.

Following agreement in February 2026, Japan and Australia shared information on their domestic trade-related climate measures, with Members emphasizing transparency, interoperability of standards, and development considerations.

Members also discussed future thematic sessions on trade and climate measures, including interoperability, development impacts, and green technology-related topics, and received updates on COP31 preparations and MC14-related initiatives.

Members welcomed the success of WTO Trade and Environment Week and supported its continuation as a platform for dialogue on trade and environmental issues.

- **Council for Trade in Services**

From June 02-04, 2026**,** the Council for Trade in Services and its subsidiary bodies discussed recognition of professional qualifications, participation of least-developed countries (LDCs) in services trade, remittance costs, environmental services classification, and future work on services-related issues.

Following earlier discussions on Article VII of the GATS, Members agreed to hold a dedicated workshop later in 2026 to exchange information and experiences on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications and related notifications.

In line with the MC13 mandate to reinvigorate work on services, Members discussed possible future topics, including green services, electronic commerce, and LDC participation in services trade.

Members continued discussions on the LDC Services Waiver, sharing information on LDC services exports, challenges faced by LDC service suppliers, and ways to improve their participation in international services trade.

- **Committee on Trade in Financial Services**

On June 03, 2026**,** Members discussed reducing the cost of cross-border remittances, facilitating digital payments, and improving access to finance for women-led MSMEs.

Following consideration of a draft declaration at MC14, Members continued discussions on reducing remittance costs, particularly for developing economies.

- **Committee on Specific Commitments**

On June 02, 2026, Members continued discussions on the classification of environmental services.

Switzerland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom proposed elements for further work and consultations aimed at improving the classification of environmental services.

- **Committee on Import Licensing**

On June 04, 2026, the Committee on Import Licensing held its second experience-sharing session on transparency and notification compliance, alongside its regular meeting.

Members and private-sector representatives exchanged experiences on improving transparency in import licensing procedures, including through timely notifications, digitalization, public-private cooperation, and access to information.

The Committee reviewed notification trends under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. The Chair noted persistent gaps in compliance, while welcoming first-time notifications from Comoros and

Members addressed 12 specific trade concerns relating to import licensing and import restriction measures raised against Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and Thailand.

The European Union presented updates on the implementation of its Electronic System for Agricultural Non-Customs Formalities (ELAN), aimed at digitizing agricultural import procedures.

- **Committee on Customs Valuation**

On June 08, 2026, Members discussed challenges related to preshipment inspection (**PSI**) and possible future work under the Committee.

The Committee reviewed 34 customs valuation notifications, including Côte d'Ivoire's first notification, and completed reviews of five members' customs valuation legislation.

Indonesia again raised concerns regarding Mexico's use of estimated prices for customs valuation purposes, and Mexico provided clarifications on the measure.

- **Committee on Trade Facilitation**

On June 10-11, 2026, Members continued discussions under the second review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (**TFA**), considering a total of 25 proposals on implementation practices, technical assistance and capacity-building, and the Committee's future work.

Under the TFA review process, Members exchanged views on proposals aimed at improving implementation, enhancing transparency, and strengthening support for developing and least-developed country Members.

The Committee also reviewed progress in TFA implementation, considered notifications and extension requests, and received updates on TACB activities under the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility.

Members agreed to hold a dedicated session on the trade facilitation needs of small economies and discussed transit-related challenges facing landlocked developing countries, including a proposal for a Transit Corridor Observatory.

- **Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA Committee)**

On June 23, 2026, the ITA Committee held a thematic session on the role of the Information Technology Agreement (**ITA**) in improving access to AI-enabling technologies, particularly for developing economies and LDCs.

Members and experts highlighted how tariff elimination under the ITA helps reduce the cost of ICT hardware, supports AI deployment, and strengthens digital infrastructure and investment.

Members also discussed opportunities to support developing economies in addressing AI readiness and bridging digital infrastructure gaps.

At the Committee meeting, Viet Nam formally expressed its intention to join ITA II, while Members continued discussions on non-tariff barriers, product classification issues, and concerns regarding Egypt's additional duties on mobile phones.

- **Committee on Government Procurement**

On June 24, 2026, the Committee on Government Procurement welcomed Uruguay as the 39th observer, reviewed ongoing accessions to the Government Procurement Agreement 2012 (**GPA 2012**), and discussed implementation-related issues.

Members discussed the accession processes of Albania, China, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Timor-Leste, with Timor-Leste indicating that preparations for its initial market access offer are underway.

Members also exchanged views on concerns raised regarding certain Canadian government procurement policies and restrictions, with Canada reaffirming its commitment to continued engagement with GPA parties.

A side event marked the 10th anniversary of Moldova and Ukraine becoming parties to the GPA 2012, highlighting their experiences with accession, procurement reforms, and implementation of the Agreement.

- **Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

From 24–26 June 2026, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (**SPS**) addressed a record 79 specific trade concerns, discussed transparency-related work, and agreed to renew its SPS mentoring programme.

Members raised 10 new SPS-related trade concerns, covering issues such as pesticide residue limits, import restrictions, market access delays, and animal health measures.

Members agreed to extend the SPS mentoring system for two years, continuing support for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among SPS officials in developing and least-developed countries.

Members also discussed implementation of the MC14 Decision on Special and Differential Treatment under the SPS and TBT Agreements, including proposals for continued structured discussions and enhanced technical assistance.

- **Committee on Regional Trade Agreements**

On June 25, 2026, Members reviewed five regional trade agreements (“**TAs**) and discussed transparency issues related to RTAs.

The Committee noted new RTA notifications involving EFTA-India and Moldova-Azerbaijan, and reviewed updates to existing agreements.

At Members' request, the Committee exchanged views on the evolution of trade and gender provisions in RTAs and their impact on women's economic empowerment.

Members also elected Ambassador Clara Manuela da Luz Delgado Jesus (Cabo Verde) as the new Chair of the Committee.

- **Informal Working Group on Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

On June 29-30, 2026, the Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (**MSME**) Group discussed the use of artificial intelligence (**AI**) to support small businesses in international trade, held consultations with the private sector on trade uncertainty, and welcomed Ghana as its 106th member.

Members exchanged views on opportunities and challenges associated with AI adoption by MSMEs, including infrastructure, skills, access to finance, and regulatory considerations.

The Group, together with partner organizations, announced the winners of the 2026 Small Business Champions Competition, recognizing innovative MSME initiatives that use AI to support trade and business development.

The Group also held its annual dialogue with the private sector, focusing on practical tools and initiatives to help MSMEs navigate an increasingly uncertain global trading environment.

VII. NATIONAL SECURITY, SANCTIONS & EXPORT CONTROLS AROUND THE GLOBE

A. USA

- On June 1, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (**OFAC**) announced a USD 10,50,000/- settlement with FTI Consulting, Inc. for violations of Russia-related sectoral sanctions. OFAC found that FTI indirectly dealt in prohibited debt of VTB Bank by issuing invoices that remained unpaid beyond the permissible tenor, thereby extending impermissible credit on six occasions. The conduct was determined to be non-egregious and not voluntarily self-disclosed, with OFAC emphasising that sanctions prohibitions apply equally to indirect dealings.
- On June 1, 2026, OFAC published an "Introduction to the Office of Foreign Assets Control" guide outlining the structure of U.S. sanctions regimes and key compliance expectations. The guidance covers core sanctions tools, licensing processes, and compliance programme requirements, and highlights enforcement principles including strict liability and potential civil and criminal penalties for violations.
- On June 2, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals and entities to the SDN List under counterterrorism, Iran-related, and Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions authorities, and issued Iran-related FAQ 1257. The designations include individuals and digital asset platforms in Iran, as well as individuals linked to armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with several listings identified as subject to secondary sanctions risk.
- On June 4, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals and entities to the SDN List under Executive Order 14404 and issued Cuba-related FAQ 1258. The designations include senior Cuban officials, their family members, and government-linked entities, including the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, ICAP, and associated organisations, as well as entities operating in sectors such as mining and services, with measures targeting those involved in or supporting the Cuban regime.
- On June 5, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals, entities, and vessels to the SDN List under Iran-related and counterterrorism authorities. The designations target networks involved in Iranian LPG smuggling and shadow banking, including entities operating in the petroleum and financial sectors, as well as associated shipping companies and vessels. OFAC also updated entries for certain transnational criminal organisations to reflect additional terrorism-related designations.
- On June 10, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals and entities to the SDN List under non-proliferation and Iran-related authorities, targeting networks supporting Iran's military procurement and weapons programmes, including intermediaries operating in China and Hong Kong. OFAC also issued amended Venezuela-related General Licenses and FAQs 1259 and 1260 authorising specified transactions in Venezuela's oil, gas, and minerals sectors, and updated existing SDN List entries under relevant authorities.
- On June 11, 2026, OFAC added Union Cuba Petróleo (CUPET), a Cuban state-owned oil and gas entity, to the SDN List under Executive Order 14404, and removed certain Russia-related listings and updated an existing designation entry under Executive Order 14024.
- On June 11, 2026, OFAC issued Russia-related General Licenses 55F and 115D and amended multiple Russia-related FAQs, authorising certain transactions related to the Sakhalin-2 project and specified civil nuclear energy projects, subject to conditions.

- On June 18, 2026, OFAC issued Venezuela-related General Licenses 5X, 24A, and 59 and an amended Venezuela-related Frequently Asked Question, authorising specified transactions involving the Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. 2020 8.5 percent bond, telecommunications and mail services with the Government of Venezuela, and the supply of certain goods and services involving Conviasa, subject to conditions.
- On June 18, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals and entities to the SDN List under counterterrorism authorities, including persons and companies linked to Hizballah and associated financial and operational networks across Lebanon, Iraq, Oman, and Syria, with several listings identified as subject to secondary sanctions risk.
- On June 18, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals and entities to the SDN List pursuant to Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886. The designations include individuals and entities linked to Hizballah, with several listings identified as subject to secondary sanctions risk.
- On June 22, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control issued Iran General License X, authorising through August 21, 2026, transactions ordinarily incident and necessary to the production, sale, delivery, and offloading of Iranian-origin crude oil, petrochemical products, and petroleum products, including related shipping, insurance, bunkering, and logistical services. The licence also permits U.S. dollar-denominated payments for authorised transactions and certain imports into the United States. However, the authorisation is limited to specified energy-related activities and does not affect broader Iran-related sanctions or restrictions under other applicable sanctions authorities.
- On June 22, 2026, OFAC designated three individuals and six entities under Executive Order 13224, as amended, and added them to the SDN List for facilitating financial transactions and money transfer networks on behalf of ISIS and ISIS-West Africa. The designations target financial facilitators and money service businesses operating across France, Syria, Türkiye, and Nigeria.
- On June 23, 2026, OFAC designated multiple individuals and entities under its TCO sanctions program and Executive Order 14404 (Cuba), including persons linked to the Prince Group Transnational Criminal Organization, CCU Commercial Bank Plc., Banco Financiero Internacional S.A., Geominera S.A., and other Cuba-linked entities. OFAC also removed four individuals from the SDN List under Executive Order 14024 (Russia).
- On June 24, 2026, OFAC removed multiple individuals, entities, and vessels from the SDN List under Executive Order 14024 (Russia), including German Belous, Mikhail Klyukin, Irina Kremleva, Viktor Nikolaev, Nadia Cherkasova, Ivan Potanin, Maxim Smirnov, Turkish entities IDA Asansor Sanayii ve Ticaret Limited Sirketi and Dein Danismanlik Pazarlama ve Ticaret Anonim Sirketi, and the vessels Vyacheslav Arshinov and Gennady Egorov.
- On June 25, 2026, OFAC designated Jean Malic Kalima Karekezi, Bosco Kayobotsi, Gasabo Gold Refinery Ltd, Bugambira Mines Ltd, Rwinkwavu Mining Corporation Ltd, and Wolfram Mining and Processing Ltd under its Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) sanctions program, targeting a Rwanda-based network involved in the illicit trade and processing of conflict minerals linked to the M23 armed group in eastern DRC. OFAC also issued Russia-related General License 131G concerning certain transactions involving Lukoil International GmbH and updated related FAQs.
- On June 25, 2026, OFAC issued Venezuela General License 60, authorising through October 23, 2026, all transactions otherwise prohibited under the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations (31 CFR Part 591) that are related to earthquake relief efforts in Venezuela, including the processing and transfer of funds by third-country persons in support of authorised humanitarian activities. The authorisation does not permit the unblocking of property blocked under the Venezuela sanctions programme or activities prohibited under other applicable U.S. sanctions authorities.

- On June 26, 2026, OFAC designated Target Multiactivities Company Ltd, Ports Engineering Company Ltd, SBL Energy Limited (India), and associated individuals under Executive Order 14098 (Sudan). Notably, the designations include Alok Choudhari, an Indian national, and SBL Energy Limited, a Raipur-based Indian explosives manufacturer, for their links to Target Multiactivities Company Ltd, a Sudan-based entity identified by OFAC. As SBL Energy Limited has been designated, entities owned 50 percent or more by it, including its wholly owned subsidiary Special Blasts Limited, would also be treated as blocked persons under OFAC's 50 Percent Rule, notwithstanding the absence of a separate SDN listing. The action forms part of a broader effort targeting networks supporting and profiting from Sudan's ongoing civil conflict.
- On June 29, 2026, OFAC launched a new Reconsideration Portal for the submission of delisting petitions and requests for underlying unclassified information relating to sanctions designations. OFAC also updated FAQ 897, issued new FAQ 1261, and published guidance on delisting petition best practices. The portal is intended to streamline and improve the efficiency and transparency of OFAC's sanctions reconsideration process and is expected to become the primary channel for future delisting requests.
- On June 29, 2026, OFAC removed multiple Turkish individuals and entities from the SDN List under Executive Order 14024 (Russia), including Megasan Elektronik Ticaret ve Sanayi A.S., AYTT CNC Takim Tezgahlari Makine Sanayi ve Ticaret Ltd. Sti., Hidropark Hidrolik Pnomatik San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti., Minyon Kesici Takimlar Makine Sanayi ve Ticaret Ltd. Sti., SSGCTM CNC Takim Tezgahlari Makine Sanayi ve Ticaret Ltd. Sti., and Turkish nationals Gurhan Aydin and Recep Cetin Aydin.
- On June 30, 2026, OFAC designated Oscar Guillermo Juraidini Silva, J. Refugio Ruiz Villagomez, Ahavat Logistics Solution, S.A. de C.V., Jomadi Logistics and Cargo, S.A. de C.V., and several related transportation, financial services, real estate, and logistics entities under Executive Orders 14059 and 13224, targeting a CJNG (Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación) fuel-smuggling and tax-evasion network operating between the United States and Mexico. The designations target individuals and entities involved in cross-border fuel smuggling, falsified customs documentation, and cartel-linked logistics and transportation activities.
- On June 30, 2026, OFAC removed RRG Engineering Technologies Private Limited, Lokesh Machines Limited, Galaxy Bearings Ltd, and Shaurya Aeronautics Private Limited from the SDN List under Executive Order 14024 (Russia). The four Indian entities had been designated in October 2024 for allegedly supplying dual use items, including machine tools, microelectronics, radar apparatus, electrical switching equipment, bearings, and related components to Russia.

B. EU

- On June 3, 2026, the European Union updated its ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime, which implements both UN and EU autonomous counterterrorism measures. The regime provides for asset freezes, travel restrictions, arms embargoes, and prohibitions on making funds or economic resources available to listed individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida.
- On June 9, 2026, the European Commission presented its proposed 21st sanctions package against Russia, which includes additional restrictions targeting Russia's energy, financial, and trade sectors. Notably, EU officials indicated that the proposed measures may target entities in third countries, including India, alleged to be involved in facilitating sanctions circumvention, alongside entities in China, Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the UAE. The proposal also includes additional restrictions targeting Russia's shadow fleet, banks, crypto-asset service providers, ports, airports, and entities supporting Russia's military-industrial complex.

- On June 15, 2026, the Council of the European Union adopted a new package of Russia-related sanctions, adding 34 individuals and 47 entities to its sanctions lists. The measures target persons and entities supporting Russia's military-industrial complex, Russia's shadow fleet and petroleum export networks, actors involved in foreign information manipulation and propaganda activities, and individuals linked to the persecution, poisoning, and death of Alexei Navalny. The package also includes listings of Russian judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and security officials connected with the persecution and death of Alexei Navalny.
- On June 15, 2026, the Council of the European Union imposed restrictive measures against the Hormozgan Provincial Command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN), Mohammad Akbarzadeh, and Hamid Hosseini under Decision (CFSP) 2023/1532 for actions undermining freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.
- On June 25, 2026, the Council of the European Union extended the EU's economic sanctions against Russia for a further 12 months, until July 31, 2027. The measures, originally introduced in 2014 and significantly expanded following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, continue to target key sectors including trade, finance, energy, dual use goods and technologies, maritime oil exports, financial institutions, crypto-asset service providers, and sanctions circumvention activities. The Council also reaffirmed its intention to further increase pressure on Russia's economy and called for the swift adoption of the proposed 21st sanctions package.

C. UK

- On June 4, 2026, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) updated the UK Sanctions List under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 by correcting the sanctions entry of Liran Cohen, who remains subject to an asset freeze, travel ban, trust services sanctions, and director disqualification sanctions. On the same date, the designation of Limited Liability Company responsibility of "RBRU Specialized Depository" was revoked, resulting in the removal of the entity from the UK sanctions list.
- On June 9, 2026, the UK FCDO, in coordination with Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, and Norway, imposed sanctions on six entities and one individual under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020. The measures target persons involved in financing, enabling, or carrying out settler violence in the occupied West Bank, and include asset freezes, travel bans, and director disqualification sanctions.
- On June 16, 2026, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) designated over 70 individuals, entities, and vessels under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. The designations include GRU officers and front companies involved in procuring dual-use technology, entities supporting Russia's defence, financial, transport, and energy sectors, and vessels engaged in transporting Russian oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- On June 16, 2026, the UK announced a new Russia sanctions package targeting shadow fleet operators, sanctions-evasion networks, and third-country suppliers supporting Russia's military procurement efforts. The measures are aimed at disrupting Russia's access to critical military technology, restricting illicit financial channels, and increasing pressure on revenues derived from Russian oil and LNG exports.
- On June 17, 2026, the UK Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) imposed a monetary penalty of £1,000,920.59 on Sabre Global Technologies Limited (SGTL) for breaches of the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. OFSI found that SGTL continued providing travel technology services to Ural Airlines, a designated Russian airline, and explored alternative payment routes to receive funds after sanctions-related payment restrictions were imposed, constituting breaches and circumvention of UK financial sanctions.

- On June 23, 2026, OFAC and OFSI jointly issued guidance titled "The U.S. and UK Economic Sanctions Authorities: A Comparative Overview." The guidance provides a comparative overview of the U.S. and UK sanctions frameworks, including sanctions designations, licensing, reporting, enforcement, and ownership and control principles, with the objective of assisting stakeholders in navigating compliance obligations under both regimes.

D. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

- On June 11, 2026, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs imposed sanctions on Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and immediate family members, including entry restrictions into mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao, and prohibitions on business dealings by Chinese persons and entities with the sanctioned parties.
- On June 22, 2026, China's Ministry of Finance prohibited government procurement from 46 designated U.S. companies, while China's Ministry of Commerce added 10 U.S. entities, including Red Cat Holdings, Teal Drones, IMSAR, Ball Aerospace & Technologies, Oshkosh Defense, MP Materials, and USA Rare Earth, to China's export control list, restricting exports of Chinese dual use items to those entities. The measures were announced in response to the U.S. Department of Defense's expansion of its Chinese Military Companies List.
- On June 24, 2026, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) issued Announcement No. 24 of 2026, formally promulgating the Measures for Industrial and Supply Chain Security Investigations. The Measures were enacted to implement the supply chain security investigation requirements of Order No. 834, Regulation on the Security of Industrial and Supply Chains. In assessing harm, MOFCOM considers the impact on the security of (1) key factors of production, such as critical materials, technology, capital, data and personnel; and (2) the flows of logistics, finance and information. MOFCOM evaluates the broader implications of these impacts on the competitiveness and development potential of China's industrial chains.
- On June 29, 2026, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) added 20 Japanese entities to its Export Restricted Namelist and 20 Japanese entities to its watch list pursuant to the Export Control Law of the People's Republic of China and the Regulations on Export Control of Dual-Use Items. The measures restrict exports of dual-use items to listed entities and impose enhanced licensing and end-use review requirements, citing concerns relating to Japan's military capabilities and end-use risks.

ELP COMMENT:

- ***The FTI Consulting settlement reinforces that sanctions risks may arise not only from direct dealings, but also from financing, payment, and credit arrangements involving sanctioned persons.***
- ***The designation of SBL Energy Limited, the delisting of four previously sanctioned Indian entities, and the EU's proposed 21st sanctions package targeting potential sanctions circumvention through third countries illustrate the increasing attention being paid to activities occurring outside sanctioned jurisdictions. At the same time, China's measures against U.S. entities and the introduction of new supply chain security and export control measures indicate a broader trend toward the use of sanctions and trade controls as strategic policy tools.***
- ***These developments reinforce the need for enhanced due diligence on counterparties, ownership structures, supply chains, and transaction flows, particularly where operations involve multiple jurisdictions or high-risk sectors.***

We hope you have found this information useful. For any queries/clarifications please write to us at insights@elp-in.com

KEY CONTACTS:

Sanjay Notani, Partner – *SanjayNotani@elp-in.com*

Parthsarathi Jha, Partner - *ParthJha@elp-in.com*

Ambarish Sathianathan, Partner *–AmbarishSathianathan@elp-in.com*

ECONOMIC LAWS PRACTICE
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

MUMBAI

9th Floor, Mafatlal Centre
Vidhan Bhavan Marg
Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
T: +91 22 6636 7000

PUNE

1307, Nandan Probiz, 1501, Sai Chowk Road
Laxman Nagar, Off Balewadi High Street,
Balewadi, Pune - 411045
T: +91 20 4912 7400

DELHI NCR

NEW DELHI

Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 16th Floor,
28, Barakhamba Road,
New Delhi – 110 001.
T: +91 11 41528400

NOIDA

9th Floor, Berger Tower, Sector 16 B,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201301.
T: +91 120 6984 300

BENGALURU

6th Floor, Rockline Centre
54, Richmond Road
Bengaluru 560 025
T: +91 80 4168 5530/1

CHENNAI

No 18, BBC Homes, Flat-7 Block A
South Boag Road
Chennai 600 017
T: +91 44 4210 4863

AHMEDABAD

C-507/508, 5th Floor, Titanium Square
Thaltej Cross Roads, SG Highway,
Ahmedabad - 380054
T: +91 79460 04854

GIFT CITY

GIFT CITY Unit No. 605,
Signature, 6th Floor Block 13B,
Zone – I GIFT SEZ, Gandhinagar 382355

elplaw.in

insights@elp-in.com

/elplaw.in

/ELPIndia

/company/economic-laws-practice

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