



**CHEESE IMPORTERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

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CIAA Bulletin

**An Exclusive CIAA Member
Update**

CIAA Members Urged to Submit Comments to USTR Regarding Proposed Tariff Increases on Many EU Cheeses

Letters Should Also Be Sent to Congressmen and Senators

USTR is accepting public comments through May 28 regarding potential increases of up to 100% on the tariffs on most cheeses imported from the European Union. The full USTR proposal can be found [here](#). We are urging CIAA members to submit their own unique comments in order to maximize the impact they may have on the final decision. We know that each member will be affected differently depending upon which cheeses you import and the scale of their operation.

As a starting point, in your comments we urge you to describe:

- Your business and how many people you employ.
- How your business would be impacted if tariffs are increased:
 - Would you increase prices?
 - Would you reduce imports?
 - Would you be forced to reduce the number of people you employ if these tariffs are increased?
- How other businesses that purchase these cheeses from you might be impacted.
- What impact you think higher tariffs would have on the final consumer.
- How intermediate services - trucking, warehousing, etc. - might be impacted if you are forced to reduce imports or increase prices.
- Be sure to include "These comments are offered in response to docket number USTR-2019-0003."

USTR asks that you submit comments electronically. To submit comments, go to www.regulations.gov, enter docket number USTR-2019-0003 on the home page and click "search." When the results appear, click on "Comment Now" that appears to the right of "Proposed Determinations, Notice of Hearing and Request for Public Comments: Enforcement of U.S. WTO Rights in Large Civil Aircraft Dispute".

We also ask that you provide a copy of your comments to the CIAA.

Following your submission of comments to USTR, we urge you to also let your Representative and Senators know of your concerns and the impact USTR's action may have on the businesses and workers in their Congressional Districts and States. You can find your elected officials in the following ways:

- To find your Representatives by State and Congressional District, click [here](#).
 - If you do not know your Representative, enter your zip code in the labeled as "Find your Representative" box on the top right of the above link to learn who it is,
 - Please keep in mind that you can submit your views as both a company and as an individual. In many cases people live in a Congressional District different from the one in which the business is located, so this gives you the opportunity to contact multiple Representatives on this matter.
- To find your Senators, click [here](#) and select your state from the "Choose a State" drop down box at the top of the list.

We do not expect USTR to announce a decision for several months. While USTR claims that the value of the products under consideration for these tariffs is approximately \$21 billion in terms of the estimated import trade value for calendar year 2018, the actual amount of the dispute is under arbitration with the WTO, and that amount is not expected to be determined until sometime this summer. Following the WTO determination USTR is expected to issue revisions to the current list that reflects the amount of that determination.

CIAA is testifying at the USTR Section 301 Committee hearing, which has now been expanded to May 15 and 16, and may submit additional comments by May 28 based upon what is learned at the hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Szemraj at rszemraj@theciaa.org or (202) 789-1212.

Dates to Remember

July 2, 2019

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2019 to notify FAS

August 31, 2019

Last day to enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2020 license.

September 3, 2019

First day of 2020 license applications

Last day to request a globalization of a calendar year 2019 license

September 16, 2019

Last day of licensees applying for reallocated license amounts for 2019

October 1, 2019

Last day to surrender 2019 license amounts

October 15, 2019

Last day of 2020 license applications

* If a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business day (Section 6.36(a) of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation). This does not apply to dates of entry for eligibility.

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