



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[C-721-003]

### Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Algeria: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**DATES:** Applicable April 27, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joshua Nixon, Office VIII, AD/CVD

Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-8361.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### The Petition

On April 6, 2026, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) received a countervailing duty (CVD) petition concerning imports of carbon and alloy steel wire rod (wire rod) from Algeria, filed in proper form on behalf of Charter Steel, Commercial Metals Company, Liberty Steel USA, Nucor Corporation, and Optimus Steel, LLC (collectively, the petitioners), domestic producers of wire rod.<sup>1</sup>

Between April 10 and 20, 2026, Commerce requested supplemental information pertaining to certain aspects of the Petition in supplemental questionnaires.<sup>2</sup> Between April 15 and 22, 2026, the petitioners filed timely responses to these requests for additional information.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Petitioners' Letter, "Petition for the Imposition of Countervailing Duties," dated April 6, 2026 (Petition).

<sup>2</sup> See Commerce's Letter, "Supplemental Questions," dated April 10, 2026; *see also* Memorandum, "Teleconference with Counsel to the Petitioners," dated April 21, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> See Petitioners' Letters, "Petitioner's Response to 1<sup>st</sup> Supplemental Questionnaire Regarding Algeria Countervailing Duty Petition," dated April 15, 2026 (First General Issues and CVD Supplement), and "Petitioners' Response to 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Questionnaire Regarding Algeria Countervailing Duty Petition," dated April 22, 2026 (Second General Issues Supplement).

In accordance with section 702(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the petitioners allege that the Government of Algeria (GOA) is providing countervailable subsidies, within the meaning of sections 701 and 771(5) of the Act, to producers of wire rod in Algeria. Consistent with section 702(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(b), for those alleged programs on which we are initiating a CVD investigation, the Petition was accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioners supporting their allegations.

Commerce finds that the petitioners filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry, because the petitioners are interested parties, as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act. Commerce also finds that the petitioners demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the initiation of the requested CVD investigation.<sup>4</sup>

#### Period of Investigation (POI)

Because the Petition was filed on April 6, 2026, the POI is January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.<sup>5</sup>

#### Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is wire rod from Algeria. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, *see* the appendix to this notice.

#### Comments on the Scope of the Investigation

As discussed in the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations, we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>6</sup> Commerce will consider all scope comments received from interested parties and, if necessary, will consult with interested parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information, all such factual information should be limited to public information.<sup>7</sup> Commerce requests that interested parties provide at the beginning of their scope comments a

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<sup>4</sup> See section on "Determination of Industry Support for the Petition," *infra*.

<sup>5</sup> See 19 CFR 351.204(b)(2).

<sup>6</sup> See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*); *see also* 19 CFR 351.312.

<sup>7</sup> See 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) (defining "factual information").

public executive summary for each comment or issue raised in their submission. Commerce further requests that interested parties limit their public executive summary of each comment or issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. Commerce intends to use the public executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the analysis of scope comments. To facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, Commerce requests that scope comments be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on May 18, 2026, which is the next business day after 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice.<sup>8</sup> Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information, and should also be limited to public information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on May 28, 2026, which is 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.

Commerce requests that any factual information that parties consider relevant to the scope of this investigation be submitted during that period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigation may be relevant, the party must contact Commerce and request permission to submit the additional information.

### Filing Requirements

All submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS), unless an exception applies.<sup>9</sup> An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by the time and date it is due.

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<sup>8</sup> The deadline for scope comments falls on May 17, 2026, which is a Sunday. Commerce's practice dictates that where a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the appropriate deadline is the next business day (in this instance, May 18, 2026). See 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1) ("For both electronically filed and manually filed documents, if the applicable due date falls on a non-business day, the Secretary will accept documents that are filed on the next business day.").

<sup>9</sup> See *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures*, 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011); see also *Enforcement and Compliance; Change of Electronic Filing System Name*, 79 FR 69046 (November 20, 2014), for details of Commerce's electronic filing requirements, effective August 5, 2011. Information on using ACCESS can be found at <https://access.trade.gov/help> and a handbook can be found at [https://access.trade.gov/help/Handbook\\_on\\_Electronic\\_Filing\\_Procedures\\_March2026.pdf](https://access.trade.gov/help/Handbook_on_Electronic_Filing_Procedures_March2026.pdf).

## Consultations

Pursuant to sections 702(b)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act, Commerce notified the GOA of the receipt of the Petition and provided an opportunity for consultations with respect to the Petition.<sup>10</sup> The GOA did not request consultations.

Additionally, given the nature of certain subsidy programs alleged in the Petitions, on April 8, 2026, Commerce issued a letter to the Government of the People's Republic of China (GOC), providing the GOC with the opportunity to meet with Commerce officials.<sup>11</sup> The GOC did not request to meet with Commerce officials, but submitted comments regarding the allegations.<sup>12</sup>

## Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 702(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (i) at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (ii) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition. Moreover, section 702(c)(4)(D) of the Act provides that, if the petition does not establish support of domestic producers or workers accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product, Commerce shall: (i) poll the industry or rely on other information in order to determine if there is support for the petition, as required by subparagraph (A); or (ii) determine industry support using a statistically valid sampling method to poll the "industry."

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the "industry" as the producers as a whole of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether a petition has the requisite industry support,

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<sup>10</sup> See Commerce's Letter, "Invitation for Consultations to Discuss the Countervailing Duty Petition," dated April 8, 2026.

<sup>11</sup> See Memorandum, "Alleged Transnational Subsidy Programs," dated April 8, 2026.

<sup>12</sup> See GOC's Letter, "Comments on CVD Petition on Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Algeria: Alleged Transnational Subsidy Programs (C-721-003)," dated April 23, 2026.

the statute directs Commerce to look to producers and workers who produce the domestic like product. The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), which is responsible for determining whether “the domestic industry” has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both Commerce and the ITC apply the same statutory definition regarding the domestic like product,<sup>13</sup> they do so for different purposes and pursuant to a separate and distinct authority. In addition, Commerce’s determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to law.<sup>14</sup>

Section 771(10) of the Act defines the domestic like product as “a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title.” Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is “the article subject to an investigation” (*i.e.*, the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the petition).

With regard to the domestic like product, the petitioners do not offer a definition of the domestic like product distinct from the scope of the investigation.<sup>15</sup> Based on our analysis of the information submitted on the record, we have determined that wire rod, as defined in the scope, constitutes a single domestic like product, and we have analyzed industry support in terms of that domestic like product.<sup>16</sup>

In determining whether the petitioners have standing under section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act, we considered the industry support data contained in the Petition with reference to the

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<sup>13</sup> See section 771(10) of the Act.

<sup>14</sup> See *USEC, Inc. v. United States*, 132 F.Supp.2d 1, 8 (CIT 2001) (citing *Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. v. United States*, 688 F.Supp. 639, 644 (CIT 1988), *aff’d Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. v. United States*, 865 F.2d 240 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

<sup>15</sup> For a discussion of the domestic like product analysis as applied to this case and information regarding industry support, see Checklist, “Countervailing Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist: Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Algeria,” at Attachment II, “Analysis of Industry Support for the Countervailing Duty Petition Covering Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Algeria” (Attachment II). This checklist is on file electronically via ACCESS.

<sup>16</sup> For further discussion, see Attachment II of the Algeria CVD Initiation Checklist.

domestic like product as defined in the “Scope of the Investigation,” in the appendix to this notice. To establish industry support, the petitioners provided the 2025 production for the U.S. producers that support the Petition and compared this to the total 2025 production of the domestic like product for the entire domestic industry.<sup>17</sup> We have relied on the data provided by the petitioners for purposes of measuring industry support.<sup>18</sup>

Our review of the data provided in the Petition, the First General Issues and CVD Supplement, the Second General Issues Supplement, and other information readily available to Commerce indicates that the petitioners have established industry support for the Petition.<sup>19</sup> First, the Petition established support from domestic producers (or workers) accounting for more than 50 percent of the total shipments of the domestic like product and, as such, Commerce is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (*e.g.*, polling).<sup>20</sup> Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 702(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.<sup>21</sup> Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 702(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.<sup>22</sup> Accordingly, Commerce determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 702(b)(1) of the Act.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*; *see also* section 702(c)(4)(D) of the Act.

<sup>21</sup> *See* Attachment II of the Algeria CVD Initiation Checklist.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

## Initiation of CVD Investigation

Based upon the examination of the Petition and supplemental responses, we find that they meet the requirements of section 702 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating a CVD investigation to determine whether imports of wire rod from Algeria benefit from countervailable subsidies conferred by the GOA. In accordance with section 703(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(b)(1), unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 65 days after the date of this initiation.

Based on our review of the Petition, we find that there is sufficient information to initiate a CVD investigation on 21 programs alleged by the petitioners. For a full discussion of the basis for our decision to initiate on each program, *see* the Algeria CVD Initiation Checklist. A public version of the initiation checklist for this investigation is available on ACCESS.

## Respondent Selection

In the Petition, the petitioners identified three companies in Algeria.<sup>24</sup> Commerce intends to follow its standard practice in CVD investigations and calculate company-specific subsidy rates in the investigation. Following standard practice in CVD investigations, in the event Commerce determines that the number of companies is large, and it cannot individually examine each company based upon Commerce's resources, where appropriate, Commerce intends to select mandatory respondents based on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data for imports under the appropriate Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading(s) listed in the "Scope of the Investigation," in the appendix.

On April 24, 2026, Commerce released CBP data on imports of wire rod from Algeria under administrative protective order (APO) to all parties with access to information protected by APO and indicated that interested parties wishing to comment on CBP data and/or respondent selection must do so within three days of the publication date of the notice of initiation of this

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<sup>24</sup> *See* Petition at Volume I (page 22 and Exhibit I-3).

investigation.<sup>25</sup> Comments must be filed electronically using ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety via ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. ET on the specified deadline. Commerce will not accept rebuttal comments regarding the CBP data or respondent selection.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(b). Instructions for filing such applications may be found on Commerce's website at <https://www.trade.gov/administrative-protective-orders>.

#### Distribution of a Copy of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(f), a copy of the public version of the Petition has been provided to the GOA via ACCESS. To the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the Petition to each exporter named in the Petition, as provided under 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

#### ITC Notification

We note that Algeria is not a "Subsidies Agreement Country" within the meaning of section 701(b) of the Act,<sup>26</sup> and therefore the ITC is not required to determine whether the allegedly subsidized imports of subject merchandise from Algeria materially injure, or threaten injury to, a U.S. industry. Nevertheless, Commerce will notify the ITC of its initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

#### Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors of production under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)-(iv). Section

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<sup>25</sup> See Memorandum, "Release of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Entry Data," dated April 24, 2026.

<sup>26</sup> See *Status of Algeria Under the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended*, 90 FR 34334 (July 21, 2025).

351.301(b) of Commerce's regulations requires any party, when submitting factual information, to specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted<sup>27</sup> and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.<sup>28</sup> Time limits for the submission of factual information are addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Interested parties should review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

### Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce.<sup>29</sup> For submissions that are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, Commerce may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in a letter or memorandum of the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, standalone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely filed requests for the extension of time limits, where we determine, based on 19 CFR 351.302, that extraordinary circumstances exist. Parties should review Commerce's regulations concerning the extension of time limits and the *Time Limits Final Rule* prior to

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<sup>27</sup> See 19 CFR 351.301(b).

<sup>28</sup> See 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

<sup>29</sup> See 19 CFR 351.302.

submitting factual information in this investigation.<sup>30</sup>

### Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an antidumping duty or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.<sup>31</sup> Parties must use the certification formats provided in 19 CFR 351.303(g).<sup>32</sup> Commerce intends to reject factual submissions if the submitting party does not comply with the applicable certification requirements.

### Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of 19 CFR 351.103(d) (*e.g.*, by filing the required letters of appearance). Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).<sup>33</sup>

This notice is issued and published pursuant to sections 702 and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.203(c).

Dated: April 27, 2026.

**Christopher Abbott,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary*

*for Policy and Negotiations,*

*performing the non-exclusive functions and duties*

*of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

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<sup>30</sup> See 19 CFR 351.301; *see also Extension of Time Limits; Final Rule*, 78 FR 57790 (September 20, 2013) (*Time Limits Final Rule*), available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm>.

<sup>31</sup> See section 782(b) of the Act.

<sup>32</sup> See *Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (*Final Rule*); *see also* frequently asked questions regarding the *Final Rule*, available at [https://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual\\_info\\_final\\_rule\\_FAQ\\_07172013.pdf](https://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> See *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).

## Appendix

### Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise subject to this investigation covers certain hot-rolled products of carbon steel and alloy steel, in coils, of approximately circular cross section, less than 19.00 mm in actual solid cross-sectional diameter. Specifically excluded are steel products possessing the above-noted physical characteristics and meeting the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) definitions for (a) stainless steel; (b) tool steel; (c) high nickel steel; (d) ball bearing steel; or (e) concrete reinforcing bars and rods. Also excluded are free cutting steel (also known as free machining steel) products (*i.e.*, products that contain by weight one or more of the following elements: 0.1 percent or more of lead, 0.05 percent or more of bismuth, 0.08 percent or more of sulfur, more than 0.04 percent of phosphorus, more than 0.05 percent of selenium, or more than 0.01 percent of tellurium). All products meeting the physical description of subject merchandise that are not specifically excluded are included in this scope.

The products under investigation are currently classifiable under subheadings 7213.91.3011, 7213.91.3015, 7213.91.3020, 7213.91.3093, 7213.91.4500, 7213.91.6000, 7213.99.0030, 7227.20.0030, 7227.20.0080, 7227.90.6010, 7227.90.6020, 7227.90.6030, and 7227.90.6035 of the HTSUS. Products entered under subheadings 7213.90.0090 and 7227.90.6090 of HTSUS also may be included in this scope if they meet the physical description of subject merchandise above. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2026-08488 Filed: 4/30/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/1/2026]