

**TARIFF RATE QUOTA (TRQ) REVIEW OF THE SAFEGUARD MEASURE ON  
IMPORTS OF CERTAIN STEEL PRODUCTS (TQ0066)**

**SUBMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
CONCERNING THE INTENDED FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE TRA**

26 May 2025

The Government of the Republic of Korea hereby submits its views on the ongoing tariff-rate quota review of the UK Steel Safeguard Measure, following the publication of the intended final recommendation of the Trade Remedies Authority on 13 May 2025.

As the Korean Government has already drawn to the attention of the TRA, the United Kingdom's commitments as a member of the WTO — in particular under Article 7.4 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards — make clear that the UK Steel Safeguard Measure cannot be made more restrictive in nature at the outcome of the present review. For this reason, the Korean Government wishes to communicate its concern at the TRA's proposal to impose country-specific caps on the residual quotas in Category 4, Category 7 and Category 13 and, at the same time, remove the carry-over facility allowing unused quota volumes to be made available in the following quarter. The Korean Government remains opposed in principle to any changes that would make the UK Steel Safeguard Measure more restrictive in nature such as those. They would quite evidently be inconsistent with Article 7.4 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards.

At the same time, the Korean Government appreciates and understands the concerns of the UK Government with respect to the domestic steel industry in the UK. To the extent that changes of the nature outlined in the TRA's intended final recommendation appear increasingly likely to be introduced, the Korean Government considers that these, although WTO-inconsistent, would allow an appropriate balance to be struck, taking into consideration the interests of *all* parties.

In this light, the Korean Government therefore hopes that the proposed changes outlined in the intended final recommendation of the TRA are indeed reflected in the recommendation that is

ultimately made to the Secretary of State. In particular:

- Recent changes to the EU Steel Safeguard Measure have resulted in a decrease in imports from the EU and are putting at risk downstream users. As a result, maintaining any country-specific cap at a level of at least 40% is essential to not commit the same mistake and ensure security of supply for the UK market.
- The proposal for the country-specific caps to come into effect on 1 October 2025 is welcome, as this would allow additional time for adjustment, taking due account of maritime transport and logistics considerations. For this reason, the Korean Government respectfully requests that this date of entry into effect is not brought any further forward in time.
- It is essential to maintain the rate of liberalisation of the measure. Given that the UK Steel Safeguard Measure is set to expire in the next year, the introduction of any changes in this regard would only serve to cause further unnecessary confusion and disruption for businesses.

We sincerely hope that the foregoing comments will be appropriately reflected in your Authority's recommendation to the Secretary of State.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea