



June 6, 2025

Tariff Updates – Steel and Aluminum

On June 4, 2025, President Trump's doubling of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports took effect, **raising rates from 25% to 50%** for all trading partners except the United Kingdom. This significant increase will directly impact members who rely on these materials for infrastructure projects, conduits, and electrical equipment.

The UK maintains the previous **25% tariff rate** due to preliminary trade agreement negotiations during the current 90-day tariff pause period. However, this exemption may change after July 9, 2025, depending on final U.S. – UK Economic Prosperity Deal negotiations.

This tariff increase occurs as the administration **seeks “best and final offers”** from trading partners by Wednesday, June 4, to avoid broader “Liberation Day” tariffs taking effect when the 90-day pause expires on July 8. The steel and aluminum increases are separate from the broader reciprocal tariff framework and apply immediately.

Key Implications for NECA Members:

- Steel and aluminum content in imported electrical equipment, conduits, and construction materials will face substantially higher costs.
- The tariffs apply specifically to the steel and aluminum content of imported products, while non-metal components remain subject to other applicable tariffs.
- Enhanced enforcement includes strict reporting requirements for steel and aluminum content, with penalties including fines or loss of import rights for false declarations.
- Projects with significant metal content may face cost increases that could impact bidding and project timelines.

NECA Next Steps:

Our Government Affairs team continues monitoring developments as legal challenges proceed through federal courts. While the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a temporary stay on May 29 allowing tariffs to remain in effect during appeals, uncertainty persists regarding the broader tariff framework.

We encourage members to assess their supply chains and material costs particularly for projects extending beyond the July 8 deadline when additional tariffs may take effect. The team remains ready to advocate for industry-specific exemptions should formal exclusion procedures be announced.

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