Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 Tariffs Timeline: Administration, Trading Partner and Meat Institute Actions

**July 24-25, 2018:** U.S. holds public hearings on 284 proposed tariff lines, covering approximately $16 billion worth of imports from China. This represents the second set of tariffs announced on May 29 and published on June 15. The first set of tariffs became effective July 6.

**End of July, 2018:** U.S. considers increasing proposed tariffs on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports announced on June 18 from 10 percent to 25 percent.

**August 3, 2018:** China announces it will retaliate with tariffs ranging from five to 25 percent on $60 billion of U.S. imports to the country should the U.S. move ahead with levying tariffs on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports. A range of U.S. hides, skins, and leather imports to China are included on the proposed list.

**August 21-27, 2018:** U.S. holds public hearings on proposed tariffs on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports announced on June 18.

**August 8, 2018:** U.S. formally announces it will impose additional 25 percent tariffs on approximately $16 billion worth of Chinese imports, effective August 23. 279 of the originally proposed 284 tariff lines are subject to the tariffs.

**August 23, 2018:** U.S. imposes additional 25 percent tariffs on approximately $16 billion worth of Chinese imports. 279 of the originally proposed 284 tariff lines are subject to the tariffs.

**August 21, 2018:** U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association, a Meat Institute affiliate, submits comments urging against imposition of the tariffs.

**August 23, 2018:** U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association, a Meat Institute affiliate, issues statement urging against imposition of the tariffs.

**August 23, 2018:** China retaliates with tariffs on $16 billion in U.S. imports to the country.

**September 12, 2018:** U.S. invites Chinese delegation to hold additional trade talks before imposing $200 billion in proposed tariffs on Chinese imports. Negotiations fail to take place before tariffs are imposed.

**September 24, 2018:** China responds with tariffs ranging from 5 to 25 percent on $60 billion of U.S. imports to the country. A range of U.S. hides, skins, and leather imports to China are included on the target list, primarily at the five percent tariff level.

**November 2018:** President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agree to trade truce during their meeting at the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. U.S. and China agree not to add additional tariffs after January 1.
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- **December 2018**: U.S. delays the scheduled January 1, 2019, List 3 tariff increase from 10 percent to 25 percent on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports to the U.S. The rate for these Chinese imports will increase to 25 percent on March 2, 2019, if an agreement between the U.S. and China is not reached by March 1.

- **January – March 2019**: U.S. and Chinese negotiators continue to engage in discussions in Washington and Beijing to resolve the countries’ ongoing trade disputes. The U.S. on February 24 announced it will postpone until further notice the planned List 3 tariff increase from 10 percent to 25 percent on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports to the U.S. The increase was set to become effective March 2, but the U.S. cited progress in the negotiations as reason to suspend the increase.

- **May 10, 2019**: U.S. announces it will raise tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese imports (List 3) from 10 to 25 percent.

- **June 17, 2019**: USTR convenes more than a week of hearings on proposed List 4 tariffs.

- **June 24, 2019**: USTR issues notice to accept exclusions from List 3 tariffs. List 3 exclusions accepted from June 30 – September 30, 2019.

- **July 9, 2019**: The U.S. will exempt 110 Chinese products from 25% tariffs implemented on July 6, 2018. Tariffs are valid for one year.

- **May 13, 2019**: China responds, saying it intends to increase the tariff rate covering some of the $60 billion in U.S. imports to the country that were included in its September 2018 action (see previous page). The tariffs, which increase from 10% to 25%, from 10% to 20%, and from 5% to 10%, take effect June 1.

- **May 2019**: In a separate action, the U.S. announces its intention to levy 25 percent tariffs on an additional $300 billion in Chinese imports (List 4). USTR is accepting comments on the proposed tariff list, and will convene a public hearing on June 17.

- **August 23, 2019**: China announces it will apply new tariffs between 5 and 10 percent on $75 billion worth of U.S. imports in two phases – September 1 and December 15, 2019.

- **August 23, 2019**: The U.S. responds to China’s announcement by saying it would raise existing tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese imports from 25 to 30 percent on October 1, 2019. Tariffs planned for September 1 on $300 billion worth of Chinese goods would increase from 10 to 15 percent.

- **September 1, 2019**: Tariffs on $125 billion worth of Chinese imports (List 4A) take effect.

- **September 11, 2019**: China unveils tariff exemption list for 16 types of U.S. imports, including animal feeds. Separately, U.S. delays increasing tariffs from 25% to 30% on $250 billion in Chinese imports form Oct. 1 to Oct. 15. China on Sept. 13 exempts U.S. pork from additional tariffs.

- **September 20, 2019**: The U.S. releases three tariff exclusion lists that collectively exempt 437 Chinese imports (mainly equipment and material) from tariffs.

- **October 11, 2019**: The U.S. and China announce “phase one” deal. China reportedly agrees to purchase additional U.S. agriculture products, strengthen intellectual property provisions, and issue new guidelines on how it manages its currency. In exchange, the U.S. will delay a planned tariff increase on $250 billion in Chinese imports from 25 to 30 percent set to take effect on October 15.
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**October 18, 2019:** The U.S. launches another tariff exclusion process for certain Chinese products starting October 31, 2019, through January 31, 2020. The process applies to Chinese products that were subject to an additional 15 percent tariff that became effective September 1, 2019.

**December 13, 2019:** The U.S. announces a “phase one” deal with China has been finalized and agrees to cancel additional 15% tariffs on $160 billion in Chinese imports to the U.S. that were set to take effect Dec. 15. The U.S. also announced that it would cut in half, from 15 to 7.5 percent, tariffs on approximately $120 billion in Chinese goods that became effective Sept 1, 2019. U.S. tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese imports will remain in place.

**December 13, 2019:** China announces second set of U.S. imports that will be excluded from additional tariffs; in Sept. 2019, China announced two lists of U.S. imports that are eligible for tariff exemptions from China’s first round of retaliatory duties on U.S. imports. Exemptions for this second set of imports will last until Dec. 25, 2020.

**January 15, 2020:** The U.S. and China sign their phase one trade agreement with some important wins for the U.S. meat and poultry industry. Retaliatory tariffs on U.S. meat products remain in place. U.S. agrees to suspend tariffs on $160 billion in Chinese imports and reaffirms its commitment to cut in half, from 15 to 7.5 percent, tariffs on approximately $120 billion in Chinese goods, effective February 14, 2020.

**February 7, 2020:** China responds, saying it will halve tariffs, effective Feb. 14, on a list of additional tariffs that took effect Sept. 1, 2019, worth approximately $75 billion. Certain U.S. meat and poultry products qualify for tariff reductions.

**February 7, 2020:** China announces 696 U.S. products, including certain meat products, that are eligible to receive tariff exemptions. China’s Tariff Commission began accepting tariff exemption applications from Chinese importers on March 2, 2020. Only Chinese importers may apply to receive tariff exemptions.

**February 17, 2020:** China announces 79 U.S. imports – medical disinfectants, nickel and aluminum alloy, among others – eligible to receive exemption from retaliatory tariffs. The tariff waiver will apply through May 18, 2021.

**February 21, 2020:** China unveils two new lists to exempt some U.S. imports from additional Chinese tariffs. These lists will be effective until February 27, 2021.

**May 12, 2020:** China announces a new list of 79 U.S. imports – medical disinfectants, nickel and aluminum alloy, among others – eligible to receive exemption from retaliatory tariffs. The tariff waiver will apply through May 18, 2021.

**June 2, 2020:** U.S. extends tariff exclusions through Dec. 31, 2020, for a fifth batch of Chinese imports subject to the initial 25% tariffs that took effect in July 2018.

**July 9, 2020:** U.S. extends certain List 1 tariff exclusions from July 9 to December 31, and publishes additional List 4A exclusion lists.

**August 5, 2020:** U.S. grants a number of exclusions for the China 301 List 4A tariffs. The exclusions are retroactive to September 1. However, the exclusions are only granted until September 1, 2020.

**August 6, 2020:** U.S. extends certain China 301 List 3 exclusions that were set to expire on August 7, 2020. The exclusion extension will expire on December 31, 2020. Extensions were granted to 266 of the 960 that were initially granted for List 3.

**December 2020:** Bipartisan group of lawmakers asks USTR to extend certain China 301 tariff exclusions that are set to expire on December 31, 2020.