



FedEx Regulatory News

Commerce to Require Aluminum Import Licenses Beginning January 25

January 15, 2021

Background information

On April 29, 2020 the U.S. Department of Commerce published a proposal for the establishment of the [Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis System \(AIM\)](#) system. The goal of AIM is to monitor import surges of certain aluminum products and assist in preventing their fraudulent transshipment.

Transshipment refers to when a product is manufactured in one country, then sent to one or more intermediary countries before being imported into the country of ultimate destination and entering their commerce stream. Sometimes the true country of origin is not correctly identified at final importation when this process occurs. Transshipment has become of particular concern since the implementation of Section 232 duties on certain aluminum products due to the risk of parties reporting an incorrect country of origin to circumvent payment.

The [AIM site](#) has launched and lists a variety of information on the aluminum import license process. Beginning January 4, 2021, those who will need to apply for aluminum licenses can begin obtaining user identification numbers from the AIM site and filing for licenses. Virtual demonstrations of the license application process will be provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce online - for specific dates and times, review the [AIM website](#). There are a limited number of spots for participants.

What will be modified?

Beginning January 25, 2021, licenses will be required for all covered aluminum imports.

The list of Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) codes requiring an aluminum import license can be found on the International Trade Administration (ITA) page "[CURRENT HTS codes for AIM - a license will be required for each entry of these HTS codes.](#)"

Aluminum licenses can be applied for by the importer, customs broker or their agent. **If FedEx Trade Networks is filing for an aluminum license on your behalf, you must provide all necessary information to complete the application on your entry documentation. Failure to provide this information may create delays.**

The online AIM licensing system will require license applicants to identify multiple data elements for the product including but not limited to:

- The value.
- The volume.
- The country of origin.
- The country where the aluminum product was most recently cast.

In addition, after one year AIM will require applicants to report the country or countries where the largest and the second largest volume of primary aluminum used in the manufacture of the imported aluminum product was smelted.

AIM will also allow some data drawn from license applications to be released to the public through the AIM monitor on the AIM site beginning January 25, 2021. The monitor will track trends in importation of certain aluminum products to help identify potential transshipment or circumvention of proper country of origin reporting.

Can a single license cover multiple products?

A single license can cover multiple products if the information on the form (such as the importer, exporter, manufacturer, country of origin, country of exportation, the expected date of export, first and second country of smelt, and expected date of import) are the same for the shipment. Separate licenses are required if the information differs from product to product; thus one entry may require more than one aluminum import license.

Do low-value shipments require a license?

Aluminum shipments valued under \$5,000 may qualify for a low-value license, which can be used for multiple shipments.

Informal entries (\$2500 USD or below, except for items valued over \$250 that require a tariff from Subchapter III of Chapter 99 of the HTSUS, such as items with section 301 or section 201 duties) are exempt from the aluminum licensing requirement.

References:

[85 FR 83804 Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis System](#)

[U.S. Department of Commerce Unveils new Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis System](#)

[CURRENT HTS codes for AIM - a license will be required for each entry of these HTS codes](#)

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