



United States

International Trade Commission

# Strategic Plan

**FY 2026–2030**





## Overview

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC or Commission) is an independent, nonpartisan, quasi-judicial federal agency established by Congress with a range of trade-related mandates. The Commission:

- Adjudicates whether: (1) dumped or subsidized imports injure a domestic industry; (2) increased imports have seriously injured a domestic industry; and (3) imports infringe a domestic intellectual property right or otherwise are unfairly imported and injure a domestic industry;
- Provides independent, objective, and timely analysis of trade and competitiveness issues to the President and Congress; and
- Maintains the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States.

These functions provide relief for U.S. businesses and workers hurt by unfair trade, provide trade policy-makers access to essential information and analysis to inform decision-making, and enable the timely and accurate collection of tariffs on imported goods.

The USITC is headed by six Commissioners who are nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Commissioners' terms are set at nine years by statute and are staggered such that a different term expires every 18 months. However, a Commissioner may serve until replaced. The Commission's structure supports its responsibility to make unbiased determinations and objective, balanced, fact-based analysis.

The Commission has identified two mission-specific strategic goals, which reflect the interests of policymakers and stakeholders: the President, and by delegation, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR); committees of jurisdiction in Congress; and U.S. industries, workers, and the general public. In developing this Strategic Plan, the Commission consulted with appropriate congressional committees and the USTR. The Commission also posted the draft Strategic Plan on its website for public comment. The Commission regularly, both formally and informally, conducts outreach and solicits feedback from policymakers and its key stakeholders. Information received from stakeholders is reviewed and integrated as necessary into process and communication improvement efforts.

This document sets forth the mission, vision and values, strategic goals, and strategic objectives that will drive the Commission's high-quality, cutting-edge analysis of international trade issues and investigative work in its highly regarded forum for the adjudication of trade disputes over the next five years.

## Mission

As established by Congress, the Commission’s mission is to apply its expertise in international trade matters to serve policymakers and the public, by assessing and addressing unfair imports and other trade practices that injure U.S. industries, providing information and analysis of international trade and competitiveness issues, and maintaining the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

## Vision and Values

### Excellence

The Commission continuously develops expertise and innovative methods of collecting and analyzing data, remaining on the forefront of research and analysis. The Commission uses its expertise and data-driven approach to provide accurate, timely, and objective insights into trade and competitiveness-related issues and to investigate and decide trade complaints in accordance with the law.

### Integrity

The Commission independently and objectively conducts investigations and analysis on trade matters. It also provides impartial, expeditious, and transparent administration of relevant trade laws as well as analytically and legally sound decisions. It is committed to ensuring Commission processes meet high ethical standards.

### Respect

The Commission fosters a culture of respect and accountability to promote a professional working environment in which all individuals contribute their expertise and perspectives to accomplish the agency's work.

## Strategic Goal 1

### Investigate: Conduct Efficient and Effective Investigations

The Commission administers and applies U.S. laws concerning investigations of (1) subsidized and dumped imports that allegedly injure a domestic industry, (2) increased imports that allegedly injure a domestic industry, and (3) imports that allegedly infringe domestic intellectual property rights or are otherwise unfairly imported. It also conducts factfinding investigations and provides technical assistance as requested by the President and Congress or by statute. The information in each investigation must be examined in an objective manner, and the resulting determinations and reports must be well-reasoned, timely, and consistent with the law.

Commission determinations in its investigative proceedings can have significant impacts on competitive conditions, profitability, and employment in affected U.S. industries. Moreover, policymakers require expert information on a timely basis to inform and support their decision-making. The Commission's investigations often involve products or industries that are important for U.S. productivity, innovation, and competitiveness, and policymakers and businesses may make important decisions based on Commission analysis and determinations.

The increasing complexity of the Commission's investigations, the variable and increased case load, and resource constraints challenge the Commission's ability to make decisions and provide information and analysis in a timely manner. The Commission must balance the competing goals of timeliness, transparency, due process, and thorough and high-quality determinations and reports.

#### Strategic Objective 1.1

##### Efficient: Conduct expeditious and transparent proceedings

Commission investigations involve many industries, product markets, and parties, often representing a broad array of interests. From single inventors (as in some investigations) and companies with revenues of less than one million dollars, to the largest multinational companies and unions representing thousands of workers, parties to Commission proceedings benefit from reliable processes that ensure fair, timely, and transparent decisions, consistent with applicable U.S. laws.

The Commission's governing statutes set specific deadlines for determinations in investigations of subsidized or dumped imports and of increased imports alleged to injure a domestic industry (import injury investigations) and require that investigations of imports that allegedly infringe domestic intellectual property rights or are otherwise unfairly imported (unfair import or section 337 investigations) be resolved at the earliest practicable time. In addition, each factfinding investigation has a deadline set by the requester of the study or by statute. Timely decisions and analyses are critical to domestic industries that are harmed by unfairly traded

imports and to policymakers trying to better understand the impact of trade on competitive conditions in the United States and foreign markets.

Transparency is also critical to ensuring reliable proceedings. The Commission promotes transparency and understanding of its proceedings by ensuring that accurate public information is readily available. The aim of providing complete information in a timely and transparent manner, however, must be balanced against the legal requirement to protect proprietary, confidential unclassified, and national security information from disclosure. Such protection is also necessary to ensure that participants are willing to provide the information needed to build a full record in investigations.

The increasing complexity of investigations has brought challenges to the ability of the Commission to meet its timeliness goals. In recent years, the complexity of all investigations has increased, whether it is the number of countries or complicated industry structure involved in an import injury investigation, the types of allegations and technology presented in an unfair import investigation, or the scope of questions presented for factfinding investigations.

The Commission's strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 1.1 include:

- improving the timeliness of Commission investigations through continual assessments of its investigative processes;
- ensuring that the Commission meets statutory and external deadlines in Commission investigations;
- posting on a timely basis documents and information related to Commission investigations on the Commission website; and
- advancing our use of technology to present information that is timely, clear, searchable, and easy to navigate.

## **Strategic Objective 1.2**

**Effective: Engage the public, including stakeholders and experts, and collect relevant data to inform and support investigations**

The Commission's reputation for independence depends in part on the integrity of investigative activities across all mission areas. To better understand and address increasingly complex trade and competitiveness issues, policymakers turn to the Commission for objective, expert, and relevant information and analysis. The Commission regularly communicates with its requestors to understand their priorities and uses this feedback to anticipate requests and be prepared to provide information and analysis for shifting public policy goals. Stakeholder engagement and the thorough collection of relevant and reliable information for our adjudicative-focused activities is essential to maintaining the trust of U.S. companies and workers in our proceedings and determinations. Broad engagement of the public and comprehensive information and data collection for our factfinding-focused activities ensures fulsome analysis of complex trade and competitiveness-related issues that are critical to decisions affecting U.S. trade, investment, and economic growth.

The Commission regularly provides outreach and solicits feedback from its requestors and key stakeholders. The Commission uses formal tools such as *Federal Register* notices, surveys, and briefings to solicit feedback about Commission processes and to identify emerging areas of interest from stakeholders. Commission staff engages stakeholders at key points during proceedings and the process of developing requested analysis and information, per agency protocols and regulations. The Commission seeks general input and feedback on procedural matters from organizations representing attorneys, economists, and other professionals active before the Commission. Information received from stakeholders is regularly reviewed and integrated as appropriate into investigation proceedings, as well as process and communication improvement efforts.

The Commission's strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 1.2 include:

- focusing on feedback from the agency's decision-makers, stakeholders, and reviewing courts, and looking for opportunities to improve;
- conducting outreach to provide information regarding the Commission's investigatory processes;
- leveraging existing and new technologies to improve the flow of information to interested parties and the public across diverse platforms to promote transparency and a greater understanding of Commission activities;
- maintaining and enhancing relationships with requestors to anticipate their needs and build the expertise and tools required to meet statutory mandates and requests for assistance; and
- engaging and collaborating with U.S. and international external experts to gather information, stay at the forefront of research, and to incorporate a variety of perspectives regarding important and emerging trade-related matters.

## **Strategic Goal 2**

### **Inform: Provide Accurate Information and Sound and Informed Analysis**

The global trading environment continues to evolve and become increasingly complex. In the face of this increase in complexity, U.S. industries and firms, policymakers, and stakeholders rely on the Commission to provide sound and informed decisions and to provide reliable, rigorous, and expert analysis and information. U.S. industries and policymakers depend on the Commission's ability to have or quickly develop deep expertise on a variety of topics. These topics include complex industry structures and competitiveness; technology and intellectual property; and a broad range of trade policy-related issues such as international trading relationships and agreements, evolution of supply chains within and across borders, and the multifaceted impact trade has on issues and economic factors such as employment, investment, and innovation. Another key aspect of the Commission's provision of information is its obligation to maintain the HTS. U.S. industries and the public rely on the HTS to provide

accurate and timely product-specific tariff information. The HTS also enables other government agencies to accurately collect tariff revenues and data on trade flows.

To meet their need for sound and informed analysis and determinations, the Commission identifies innovative approaches to understanding the wide-ranging issues and applies objective methods and approaches to data collection and analysis. These include developing comprehensive and up-to-date records, scrutinizing various sources of information, developing industry expertise and keeping abreast of emerging competitiveness and technology issues, and refining economic models, databases, and analytic skills.

## **Strategic Objective 2.1**

### **Sound: Provide comprehensive, evidence-based analysis and determinations**

Our statutory requestors regularly ask for information and analysis on trade agreement provisions, as well as how foreign barriers and U.S. domestic policies impact our trade and competitiveness in global markets. In both our adjudicatory and factfinding investigations, in-depth analysis is also required on the production and trade performance of specific markets and industries, as well as how imports impact the U.S. domestic market for certain products. To continually strengthen its technical expertise, the Commission identifies priority research areas related to new developments in trade, industry competitiveness, and the U.S. and global economies. The Commission continues to advance data collection analysis and vehicles to address the increasing levels of complexity driven by evolving industry structures, large number of countries involved in a proceeding, and new and emerging products and industries to maintain record integrity, which is essential to reliable and objective determinations.

Innovative analysis and objective determinations depend on the active and engaged efforts of our staff. Because the Commission’s workload is unpredictable and varies in scope and complexity, the Commission must develop and maintain expertise to respond quickly and effectively to policymakers and to petitions and complaints filed with the Commission. The Commission will continue to meet its workload challenges by deploying multidisciplinary teams of investigators, economists, industry and financial analysts, statisticians, and attorneys drawn from across the Commission, and applying a range of skills and backgrounds, expertise, and innovative approaches to problem solving. To ensure that the Commission’s staff and work product remain at the forefront of research, the Commission’s strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 2.1 include identifying priority research areas and strategic investment in analytic tools and staff skills based on anticipated policy priorities and trade needs. The Commission will also continue to incorporate new capabilities and improved analytical tools in statutory work products and in making its statutory investigation determinations.

## **Strategic Objective 2.2**

### **Informed: Provide clear and accurate information**

To fulfill its mission, the Commission must provide clear and accurate information and analysis to its statutory requestors and stakeholders in a timely manner. Transparency and accuracy

also underpin the Commission's reputation as an objective and unbiased adjudicator of import injury and unfair import complaints. The Commission will continue to use technologies to improve its ability to present information that is clear, searchable, and easy to navigate. The Commission is expanding its use of interactive graphics and other ways to improve the accessibility and availability of data used in Commission reports. The Commission is also exploring ways to modernize the electronic publication of its reports and the HTS to maintain user-friendliness for general readers while making the data more accessible for technical users.

Policymakers require expert, independent information and analysis on a timely basis to inform and support decision-making. Achieving this goal assists our requestors with their decisions related to trade negotiations, enacting legislation, and taking other policy actions that affect the competitiveness of U.S. industries and workers as well as the overall U.S. economy. The Commission provides objective and independent advice, analysis, data, and other information to the Congress, the President, and USTR. The Commission's specialized ability to collect, develop, and synthesize primary data and information and provide multidisciplinary analysis supports the development of well-informed trade policy and reliable and trustworthy import injury and unfair import adjudications. By providing public access to Commission documents and statistical information and the underlying data that support its products or determinations (subject to the legal requirements to protect information noted above), the Commission helps ensure that its data, information, and determinations can withstand public and judicial scrutiny. The Commission continues its commitment to emphasize accuracy in the published version of the HTS and to improve the usability of tariff information for stakeholders and the public.

As the primary resource for determining tariffs classifications for goods imported into the United States, the HTS serves as the legal basis for the collection of customs duties and the compilation of trade data. The HTS provides critical product-specific information for the public and serves as an integral part of other government agencies' work, enabling the accurate collection of tariff revenues and data on trade flows. The Commission plays a significant role in maintaining and updating the HTS and the international Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature for traded goods, and in drafting classification provisions at the national level. The Commission also guides the development of the statistical categories used to monitor trade. Enhancing the functionality of the HTS continues to be a major focus of the Commission. Timely updates to the HTS and improved functionality for internal and external users enable the accurate collection of tariff revenues.

The Commission's strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 2.2 include:

- advancing its ability to provide public access to Commission documents and statistical information and the underlying data that support its products or determinations;
- improving the accessibility and clarity of Commission factfinding investigations by providing underlying data where appropriate;
- increasing the accessibility of Commission work products through improved compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

- improving the usability of the HTS including by continuously assessing and implementing feedback received from stakeholders;
- ensuring the accuracy and timeliness of the published version of the HTS; and
- improving the understanding of tariff and trade information by timely responses to public inquiries and developing and making available resources to educate the public.

## Strategic Goal 3

### Perform: Continuously Advance Organizational Excellence

Efficient and effective management increases the agency’s ability to meet its mission. To execute and continuously advance organizational excellence in all mission activities, the Commission has established Strategic Goal 3 to promote collaboration and shared responsibility. Additionally, each year the Commission’s Annual Performance Plan addresses the major management challenges identified by the agency’s Inspector General in the most recent semiannual report to Congress.

Strategic Goal 3 underpins the Commission’s commitment to continuous process improvement and support for the Commission’s other strategic goals and mission. The Commission has established five strategic objectives in support of this goal. The objectives align with five areas: human resources; budget, acquisitions, and finance; information technology; data governance; and operational effectiveness.

#### Strategic Objective 3.1

##### People: Attract, recruit, develop, and retain a qualified, accountable, and versatile workforce

The Commission’s workforce is integral to mission accomplishment. To accomplish its mission, the Commission requires qualified staff with highly specialized knowledge in areas including trade analysis; nomenclature systems; analytic methods; and government policies, laws, and regulations affecting trade. Commission staff must also be flexible and adaptable, with the ability to perform in different roles to meet fluctuations in the composition and volume of workload. Further, the number of employees must be adequate to fulfil the increased workload. During the next five years, a substantial portion of the agency’s workforce will be eligible to retire. Historically, attrition has been approximately ten percent of the agency’s workforce. In recent years, the agency’s overall workload has grown in terms of quantity and complexity, putting additional strains on the agency’s workforce.

Strategic Objective 3.1 ensures that the Commission attracts, recruits, develops, and retains an exceptionally skilled and effective workforce. The support and collaboration of all functional areas is necessary to develop recruiting, hiring, training, retention, and succession plans. When considering strategies to carry out this objective, the Commission faces internal and external challenges that shape the business environment in which the Commission carries out its mission. These challenges include budget constraints and difficulty in attracting qualified candidates in specific occupations due to disparities between public- and private-sector pay.

The Commission's strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 3.1 include:

- focusing on efficient and effective recruitment of human capital;
- ensuring robust succession planning;
- continuing to train and develop skilled, effective and engaged managers, team leaders and staff;
- enhancing performance management systems to improve accountability and drive organizational success; and
- continuing to develop accurate, innovative, and efficient human capital management systems and processes that help support the agency's strategic goals.

### **Strategic Objective 3.2**

#### **Money: Ensure responsible, diligent, and transparent stewardship of taxpayer funds**

The Commission relies on the effective use of limited financial resources to carry out its strategic goals. Stewardship of appropriated funds and financial oversight are fundamental to establish the accountability and transparency that taxpayers demand and the President has directed Federal agencies to improve.

The Commission continuously assesses and enhances its budget formulation and execution, acquisition activities, accounting operations, internal controls, internal rules and the identification and consideration of organizational risks. This strategic objective promotes consistency and integrity throughout the organization as the Commission makes efficient and effective use of available resources.

The Commission's strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 3.2 include:

- evaluating the need for resources across agency activities, aligning funds to strategic goals and objectives through risk analysis and prioritization, and incorporating the information in budget preparation and execution;
- promoting the use of outcome-based metrics when evaluating acquisition requests, and ensuring that requests align with strategic needs; and
- advancing the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of financial data to support transparent reporting and reinforcing public trust in the Commission's stewardship of funds.

### **Strategic Objective 3.3**

#### **Technology: Implement and maintain reliable and secure systems that promote efficiency, resilience, innovation, and portability**

Reliable and secure IT services are crucial to accomplishing the agency’s mission. The Commission will provide the leadership, strategy, resource management, and processes necessary to ensure the success of its technologies, security, infrastructure, and IT management resources.

The Commission’s strategy for meeting Strategic Objective 3.3 includes:

- implementing reliable IT solutions and programs that promote resilience (availability and accessibility of networks and applications);
- promoting innovation and resilience by providing modern technology solutions that align with and support the Commission’s business environment, policy goals, and statutory requirements;
- continuously enhancing the Commission’s technical architecture to support the automation of business processes to improve efficiency;
- using its risk-based information security program to predictively protect the infrastructure and information assets entrusted to the Commission while maintaining a sustainable balance between performance, security, availability, and accessibility; and
- using best practices to improve collaboration with stakeholders, continuously implementing strengthened IT controls through effective policies and procedures, and promoting transparency in all aspects of IT resource management.

### **Strategic Objective 3.4**

#### **Data: Manage, use, and release data to inform decision-making**

Managing, using, and releasing data assets to inform decision-making is critical to accomplishing the agency’s mission. Data are essential to all of the Commission’s work, and we will continue to develop a data-centered approach to supporting the agency’s mission. To support Commission and government-wide goals and objectives, the Commission will continue to enhance its data governance policies and practices.

The Commission’s strategies for meeting Strategic Objective 3.4 and government-wide data governance best practices include:

- improving coordination and planning of agency-wide data initiatives;
- providing mechanisms for escalating data-policy issues to ensure holistic strategies for resolution;
- elevating data maturity across the organization; and
- advancing the agency’s strategic use of data; and improving data access, transparency, and protection.

To effectively leverage data as a strategic asset, it must be discoverable. To ensure that all data is discoverable, the Commission will deploy, maintain, and periodically upgrade appropriate data search and extraction tools; ensure that data assets are identified, described, documented, and inventoried; foster transparency by developing and deploying cutting-edge technologies to improve the flow of information; and develop controls to ensure data is appropriately protected from creation through destruction.

### **Strategic Objective 3.5**

#### **Operational Efficiency: Evaluate and improve processes and communications**

The Commission's operational effectiveness depends on continually evaluating and improving our business processes and communication to deliver better results. To accomplish this, managers lead and control the activities within the agency and continually measure and improve the processes for which they are responsible.

To make progress on Strategic Objective 3.5, the Commission will:

- continue to conduct internal evaluations of its processes and use its enterprise risk management (ERM) process to prioritize areas for improvement;
- focus efforts to more effectively manage agency-wide policy development and continue to invest in and modernize its IT infrastructure and management systems;
- focus on further integrating ERM into its strategic planning, performance management, and budget processes;
- continue its efforts to modernize its administrative policies and procedures, guidance, and other administrative materials related to the activities of the agency to reduce resources required to maintain this information and improve its accessibility; and
- continue streamlining and improving personnel vetting processes and efforts to ensure information security.

The Commission will continue to use feedback from the public on the functionality and usefulness of information it provides through its website and web applications. Increasingly, the Commission uses its website as the primary vehicle to provide information to the public. In addition, participants in the agency's various types of investigations and activities increasingly make use of its web applications such as the Electronic Document Information System (EDIS), the Investigations Database System (IDS), the Harmonized Tariff Schedule System (HTS), and DataWeb. The Commission will use the feedback it receives to improve the content and functionality of its web-based systems.

## Appendix 1: Key statutory responsibilities

### **Tariff Act of 1930**

Under Title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) are responsible for conducting antidumping and countervailing duty (subsidy) investigations and five-year (sunset) reviews. Commerce determines whether imports under investigation are dumped or subsidized, and if so, the margin of dumping or amount of subsidy. The Commission determines whether a U.S. industry is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of the imports under investigation. If both Commerce and the Commission reach affirmative final determinations, Commerce will issue an antidumping duty order to offset the dumping or a countervailing duty order to offset the subsidy. (See the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. §§ 1671 et seq.)

Under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Commission investigates unfair methods of competition and unfair acts involving imported articles, including infringement of U.S. patents, trademarks, and copyrights. If a violation is found, the Commission may issue remedial orders authorized by the statute. Exclusion orders direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to prohibit the importation of infringing articles. Cease and desist orders prohibit, among other things, the sale, marketing, or distribution of infringing articles. (See the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. § 1337.)

Under section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Commission investigates a wide variety of trade matters. Upon request from the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, or the President, and, by delegation, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), or upon its own motion, the Commission conducts factfinding investigations and prepares and publishes reports on matters involving tariffs, trade, and competitiveness. (See the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. § 1332.)

Under section 484 of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Commission also cooperates with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce to establish statistical subdivisions of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTS) for articles imported into the United States and ensures that these statistical subdivisions are compatible with domestic statistical programs. (See the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. § 1484(f).)

### **Trade Act of 1974**

At the request of the President, the Commission provides advice as to the probable economic effect on domestic industries and consumers of modification of duties and other barriers to trade that may be considered for inclusion in any proposed trade agreement with foreign countries. (See section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C. § 2151.)

At times, certain articles may be designated as eligible for duty-free treatment when imported from designated developing countries. The Commission advises the President as to the probable economic effect on the domestic industry and on consumers of such designations. (See sections 131 and 503 of the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C. §§ 2151, 2463.)

The Commission conducts “safeguard” investigations under sections 201–204 of the Trade Act of 1974. The Commission conducts investigations under section 202(b) to determine whether an article is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing a like or directly competitive article. If the Commission finds serious injury or threat, it recommends to the President the action that would address the serious injury or threat thereof and be most effective in facilitating the efforts of the domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition. The President makes the final decision on whether to take an action and, if so, the form, amount, and duration of the action. During the time that a remedy action is in effect, the Commission, under section 204(a)(1), monitors developments within the domestic industry and, under section 204(a)(2), may be required to provide a report to the President and the Congress on its monitoring. The Commission may also be required under section 204(a)(4) to provide advice to the President regarding a modification of the action and, under section 204(c), investigate to determine whether the action should be extended. After the action terminates, the Commission, under section 204(d), must evaluate the effectiveness of the action and submit a report to the President and the Congress. (See the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C §§ 2252–2254.)

In addition, the U.S. Trade Representative, following receipt of a request from a domestic industry that cultivates a perishable agricultural product or citrus product, may request the Commission to monitor and investigate imports of the concerned product under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)) for the purpose of expediting an investigation under section 202(b) of the Trade Act with respect to imports of such perishable agricultural product or citrus product. (See section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C § 2252.)

**Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988**

The Commission is responsible for compiling and publishing the HTS and for keeping it under review. The Commission is also responsible for recommending to the President modifications it considers necessary or appropriate to conform the HTS with amendments to the HS Convention, to ensure that the HTS is kept up to date, and to relieve unnecessary administrative burdens. (See section 1205 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, 19 U.S.C. § 3005.)

Subject to the policy direction of USTR, the Commission works with the U.S. Departments of the Treasury and Commerce to formulate U.S. government positions at the World Customs Organization Council (WCO) on technical and procedural issues relating to the *Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System* Convention, covering the international classification of traded goods. (See section 1210 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, 19 U.S.C. § 3010.)

**United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act**

The United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) Implementation Act provided new responsibilities for the Commission: Under section 322 of the USMCA Implementation Act, the Commission must conduct investigations and make determinations with respect to whether grants of authority, received or requested by Mexican trucking firms or drivers to provide long-haul trucking services in the United States, cause or threaten to cause material harm to U.S. long-haul trucking firms and drivers. (See section 322 of the USMCA Implementation Act, 19 U.S.C. § 4501 note.)

Section 202(A) of the USMCA Implementation Act created special rules for automotive goods. That section created an interagency committee, of which the Chair of the Commission is a member, that advises on and reviews matters concerning the USMCA automotive rules of origin. The Commission also is tasked with preparing biennial reports concerning the economic impact of those rules of origin. (See section 202(A) of the USMCA Implementation Act, 19 U.S.C. § 4501 note.)



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